Hafa Adai!

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Do you intend to get a flu shot this year?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of September 1, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Deadly Fire

A deadly wildfire destroys more than four dozen homes in Southern California.

NATION...Page 14

Spelling Tips

Here are six simple tips to improve your spelling, without the hassle of sitting in front of a long list of words every day.

CAMPUS LIFE...Page 17

Court: Withhold salary, property of top DPS officials. **PAGE 3**

Ex-cop says he saw knife still lodged in victim's nape. **PAGE 5**

Election board rescinds decision

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commission on Election board rescinded yesterday its newly adopted emergency regulations that would have, among other things, changed the format of the ballots that would be used in the Nov. 7 elections.

RELATED NEWS

'No. 1' House bet unwilling to give up slot. **PAGE 2**

Fitial reprograms $50K for election commission. **PAGE 3**

Faced with protesting candidates, mostly independents, the board agreed to go with the original ballot format, where the names of candidates will be grouped according to the position they're running for. The emergency regulations would have grouped candidates according to party.

See ELECTION on Page 4

PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Three young ladies model clothes sold at Boarderline, The Athlete's Foot, All Star Sporting Goods, and Joeten Shopping Center in Susupe during *Beach Road Magazine*'s Summer Jam & Glam on Saturday at the Fiesta Resort & Spa in Garapan. The event also included a battle of the bands in which Rated R bested five others. ***See story and more pictures on Page 18***

Sablan to seek 'missing, new docs on federalization suit

Admin: Not much law firm activity in past few months

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Sablan

Rep. Tina Sablan (I-Saipan) said yesterday she will ask the Fitial administration for "missing" records and more recent billings and payments, a day after she received and reviewed 30 pages of documents showing that the CNMI had been billed close to $40,000 between August 2008 and February 2009 by the U.S.-based law firm representing the Commonwealth in its fight against federalization.

RELATED NEWS

High court explains decision in OGA suit. **PAGE 8**

"There appears to be significant gaps in the records released so far," she said, adding that the

See SABLAN on Page 4

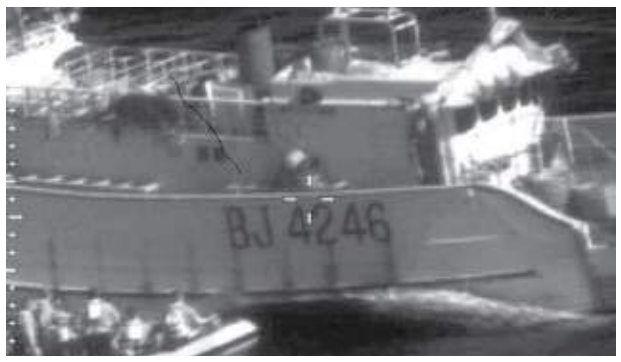
Taiwanese fishing vessel seized, escorted to Saipan

A Taiwanese-flagged fishing vessel was seized and escorted to the Saipan port this past weekend by a U.S. Coast Guard patrol boat for suspected fisheries violations within the boundaries of the U.S. exclusive economic zone.

According to a U.S. Coast Guard news release, the crew of the 22-meter, 56-ton *Te Hung Fa* were illegally fishing for sharks, tuna and other types of fish with its long line gear deployed within the EEZ surrounding the Northern Marianas Islands, about 400 miles north-northwest of Guam.

The *Te Hung Fa* was met by officers of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Law Enforcement for investigation into alleged violations of the Magnuson-

See TAIWANESE on Page 4



U.S. COAST GUARD PHOTO

The crew of the 110-foot Coast Guard cutter *Washington* arrives on scene 17 miles within the U.S. exclusive economic zone to intercept and seize a Taiwanese-flagged fishing vessel for suspected fisheries violations within the boundaries of the U.S. EEZ, Friday, Aug. 28, 2009. The crew of the 72-foot fishing vessel, *Te Hung Fa*, is alleged to have been illegally fishing for sharks, tuna and other types of fish within the U.S. EEZ surrounding the CNMI, about 400 miles north-northwest of Guam.

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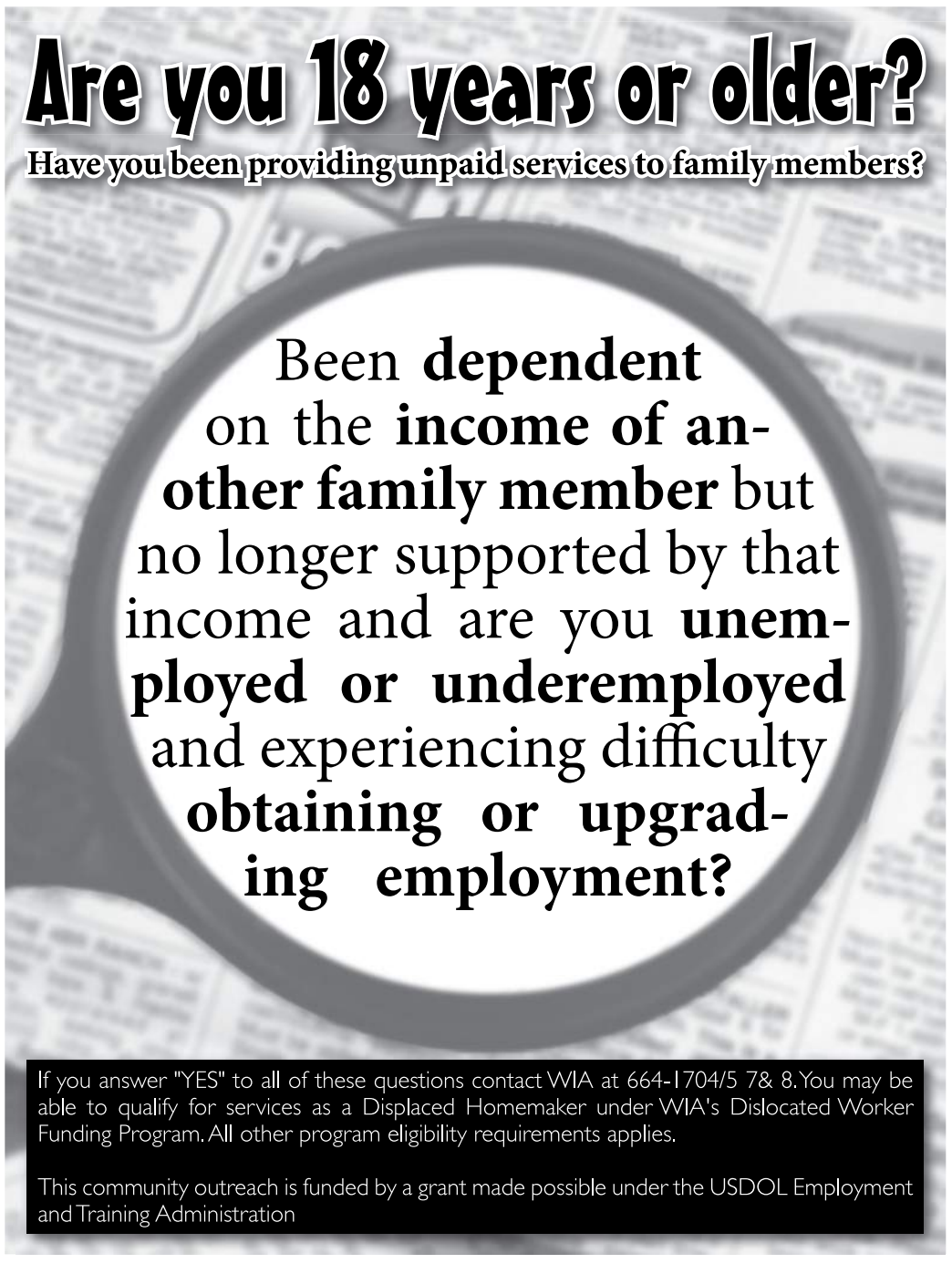
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This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration

Local

Four get land compensation payment under the new law

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Department of Public Lands said four individuals have been paid land compensation since March under Public Law 16-31, which authorizes DPL to pay land compensation judgments using its operations fund bank accounts.

DPL Secretary John S. DelRosario, in an Aug. 28 letter to the House Committee on Natural Resources, identified the four claimants as Antonio Ch. Camacho, Jose Ch. Camacho, Henry T. Indalecio, and Francisco S. Guerrero.

The first two received court judgments; the last are without court judgments.

Rep. Ray Tebuteb (R-Saipan), chairman of the House Committee on Natural Resources, said yesterday it would have been better if DPL included the amount of land compensation paid to the four individuals but conceded that the committee's request letter didn't ask for this specific detail.

Tebuteb said DPL's list does not include the names of others who already have court judgments but have yet to be paid, even when two other individuals whose claims don't have court judgments yet "have already been paid."

"Our record indicates that the four individual claimants listed below are the only claimants that have been compensated thus far pursuant to above-stated law," DelRosario told Tebuteb.

Tebuteb

DelRosario could not be reached for comment yesterday as to the amount of compensation paid to the four individuals.

Tebuteb said the committee may write a follow-up request to DPL, but he said this will be up to the committee.

On Aug. 20, the committee wrote a letter to DPL, asking for a list of individuals who have so far received land compensation under P.L. 16-31. In that letter, the committee said "many of the concerned citizens have yet to receive compensation owed them by the government for using their properties."

House Bill 16-206, authored by Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider (R-Saipan) and Rep. Stanley Torres (R-Saipan), became P.L. 16-31 on March 10 after the Senate overrode Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's veto. The House of Representatives overrode the veto on Feb. 13.

The law authorizes DPL to pay for land compensation judgments using its operations fund bank accounts "in cases where land exchange is not a viable or desirable option."

In vetoing the bill on Feb. 11, the governor said there is nowhere in Article 11 of the CNMI Constitution that mentions land compensation payments as one of the allowable expenses from moneys received from public lands.

But lawmakers said DPL has been sued over land compensation payments, and it's time the agency fulfills its duty to pay for land compensation.

Fitial off to Calif. for Labor Day festivities with NMI residents

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial is set to leave today for San Diego, California, to join CNMI residents now living in different U.S. states in Labor Day festivities.

Fitial estimates over 3,000 CNMI residents now residing or working in different states, and they will be holding a get-together in San Diego during the Labor Day weekend.

Labor Day is on Monday, Sept. 7.

"They will have a get-together and they invited me to be there with them. They want the governor of the CNMI to grace their special event," he said.

The governor said he will be joining the CNMI residents on Saturday and Sunday, but will be immediately meeting with the steering committee upon his arrival in California.

When asked whether he will also campaign in California, Fitial reiterated that he was "invited" to the festivities.

Fitial is seeking re-election in November.

Independent gubernatorial candidate Juan "Pan" Guerrero and his running mate Floor Leader Joe Camacho have taken their campaign to the U.S. mainland beginning on Aug. 24 in Salem and Portland, Oregon.

Two days later, they were in Seattle, Washington, and then to Boise, Idaho the next day.

On Aug. 29, Guerrero and Camacho went to San Francisco, California, and then to Las Vegas, Nevada on Sept. 1. They are also set to visit San Diego, California on Sept. 3, before leaving for Honolulu, Hawaii on Sept. 8.

There are two other gubernatorial teams in the November elections: Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider and his running mate House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios of the Republican Party, and Independent former Sen. Ramon "Kumoi" Guerrero and his running mate Dr. David Borja.

'No. 1' House bet not willing to give up slot

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Joseph Muna Mendiola, an independent House candidate for Precinct 5, expressed disappointment yesterday upon learning that the Election Commission board has adopted a ballot format that is different from what was agreed upon last week during the spot drawing.

Mendiola is one of several House candidates for Precinct 5 and was lucky enough to get the No. 1 spot on the ballot among eight independent contenders.

Since Friday, he has been using the "No. 1" phrase in all his logo and campaign materials to inform his supporters of his placement on the ballot.

"I am concerned now because…I've been using that placing in my campaign. People were already informed about it and if the commission will change what has been decided in the lottery, it would create confusion among voters," he told Saipan Tribune.

Mendiola showed this reporter a sample of his banner with a huge No. 1 sign on both sides.

He pointed out that it was already agreed upon by all candidates and commission officials that the one-sheet ballot format will be followed, where all recognized parties and independent groups will be placed on the front sheet.

"I never expected that the commission wants it to be a two-page sheet … as what is indicated in the emergency regulation," he said.

Mendiola said he supports the issues raised by fellow independent candidates who protested the commission's decision.

Mendiola said he is not willing to change his "position" on the ballot since it has already been determined in the drawing last week.

"The election board could change the two-sheet to only one… but I am not willing to give up the "No. 1 spot" in the ballot," he said.

In contrast, independent House candidate Stanley Torres yesterday said that if candidates are confident that people will vote for them, there's no issue about placings and positions of candidates or party names on the ballot.

"Unlike other independent candidates, I don't have any problem with the setup because I believe that voters will still look for your name wherever it is placed on the ballot. If you are confident enough in your supporters, I don't think we have a big problem with that," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

CEC board chairwoman Frances M. Sablan earlier expressed the board's willingness to "resolve" the issues raised by independent candidates relating to the emergency regulations.

Court: Withhold salary, property of top DPS officials

Court judgment vs Ogumoro brothers now at $3.9M

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The federal court has directed the Department of Public Safety and a law firm representing an estate to withhold the salary, money, or property of acting DPS Commissioner Aniceto Ogumoro and CNMI range master Ambrosio Ogumoro in order to pay a court judgment against them that now amounts to $3.9 million.

The U.S. District Court's clerk of court issued yesterday a writ of continuing garnishment to DPS and the Edward Manibusan law firm, lawyer for the Soledad T. Ogumoro estate. The clerk of court issued the writ after federal judge Alex R. Munson approved the U.S. government's application for one.

A writ of garnishment is a legal process where the court orders a person or entity—the garnishee—to hold money or property owed within 10 days after the writ is served. A garnishee may be a person, entity or corporation in possession of money or property of a defendant or judgment debtor.

In this case, the garnishees are DPS and the Soledad Ogumoro estate through the Manibusan law firm. The defendants or judgment debtors are the Ogumoro brothers, who are facing a court judgment for an oil spill incident.

In the U.S. government's application for writ, Assistant U.S. Attorney Jessica F. Cruz said the Ogumoro brothers have failed to satisfy their debt.

According to the clerk of court, a judgment in a civil case was filed against the Ogumoros on Dec. 26, 2006, and the total amount due now totals $3,854,365.16 as of July 10, 2009.

The principal amount is $3,754,345.97 and the interest is $100,019.19. The original principal amount was $3.4 million.

In issuing the writ of garnishment, the clerk of court directed DPS and the Manibusan law firm to withhold and retain any money or property of the Ogumoros they have in custody, including wages, salary, commissions or proceeds, until they receive instructions on what to do with the property or money.

The clerk of court also notified the Ogumoros that their salary at DPS is being taken by the U.S. government until the judgment is paid in full.

The U.S. government had filed a separate lawsuit against Ambrosio Ogumoro over the alleged transfer of his land to his daughter despite his failure to pay damages for the fishing boat oil spill.

In response to the lawsuit, Ambrosio Ogumoro, through counsel Douglas Cushnie, said the transfer was made in a good faith effort to rehabilitate him.

"There was no intent to hinder, delay or defraud any creditor by the transfer alleged herein, but rather to permit the debtor Ogumoro to pay his debts," Cushnie stressed.

Fitial reprograms $50K for Election Commission

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has reprogrammed $50,000 from other funding sources within the Executive Branch to pay for the printing of election ballots and other expenses for the November general polls.

Election Commission executive director Robert Guerrero confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that his office received the amount last week.

According to press secretary Charles Reyes Jr., the $50,000 was taken from a fund for the Coastal Resources Management Office.

"I have been told that the $50,000 made available to the CEC came by way of reprogramming of the same amount from the 'all other' funding category allocated to the CRMO," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The governor had earlier vetoed a bill that would have allocated $182,000 to the Election Commission, mainly due to a technicality.

Guerrero said the agency needs about $80,000 to operate until the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30 and about $80,000 additional funds all the way to Election Day.

"The $50,000 we received is strictly for ballot production and procurement of machines for the tabulation and preliminary counting of ballots," he said.

He said the commission is still working with the administration on the additional funds needed so it could do its job in the November election.

Yesterday was the deadline for the agency to inform the U.S.-based ballot vendor to go ahead with the printing of the ballots. Guerrero estimated that some $18,000 will be spent for the production of ballots.

The agency wants to print more than 18,000 ballots for the general election. It anticipates over 15,000 regular and absentee voters come Nov. 7.

Guerrero said CEC needs to receive these ballots on Sept. 15.

Saipan Tribune learned that the remaining balance of the $50,000 reprogrammed fund will be used to acquire four brand new optical scanner tabulating machines that will be used in the preliminary counting of votes for each senatorial district.

At present, Guerrero said the agency has only two "old" machines that are not recommended for mobilization.

"We anticipate having six units in the election…so these are enough to do the preliminary counting of ballots on three islands," Guerrero said, describing the machines as 99.9 percent reliable.

As of last week, the Election Commission has already received close to 400 requests for absentee ballots, majority for Saipan.

The number is expected to jump in the coming weeks, according to Guerrero.

Requests for absentee ballots began on Aug. 24 and will last through Oct. 13.

Childcare providers urged to enforce regs

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Acting Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao is urging childcare providers in the CNMI to enforce licensing regulations and ensure safety standards.

Faisao spoke to some 90 childcare providers during sessions held Saturday, stressing the need to revisit and improve standards in all agencies that deals with protection for children placed in out-of-home care settings or child care centers, and in-home care settings.

Participants came from different agencies and included Marvin Seman of the Division of Environmental Quality, Lilly Kapileo of the Bureau of Environmental Health Services, Fire Marshall Dan Suel, officers from the Fire Prevention and Safety Unit, Linda Stephanian and Bill Limes of the Division of Youth Services, and Therese Ogumoro and Alice Tomokane of the Saipan Zoning Office

The sessions were funded by a state grant for the Office of the Governor and was supported by the Child Care Bureau Administration for Children and Family/ US Department of Health and Human Services in Region 9.

Faisao told participants to always keep in mind that children deserve to be protected and nurtured, regardless of age, ethnicity, religion, or social economic status.

He said this must be imperative upon all agencies in the CNMI.

"All parents value a safe and nurturing setting with appropriate regulations that provide oversight and monitoring, using equal standards," Faisao said.

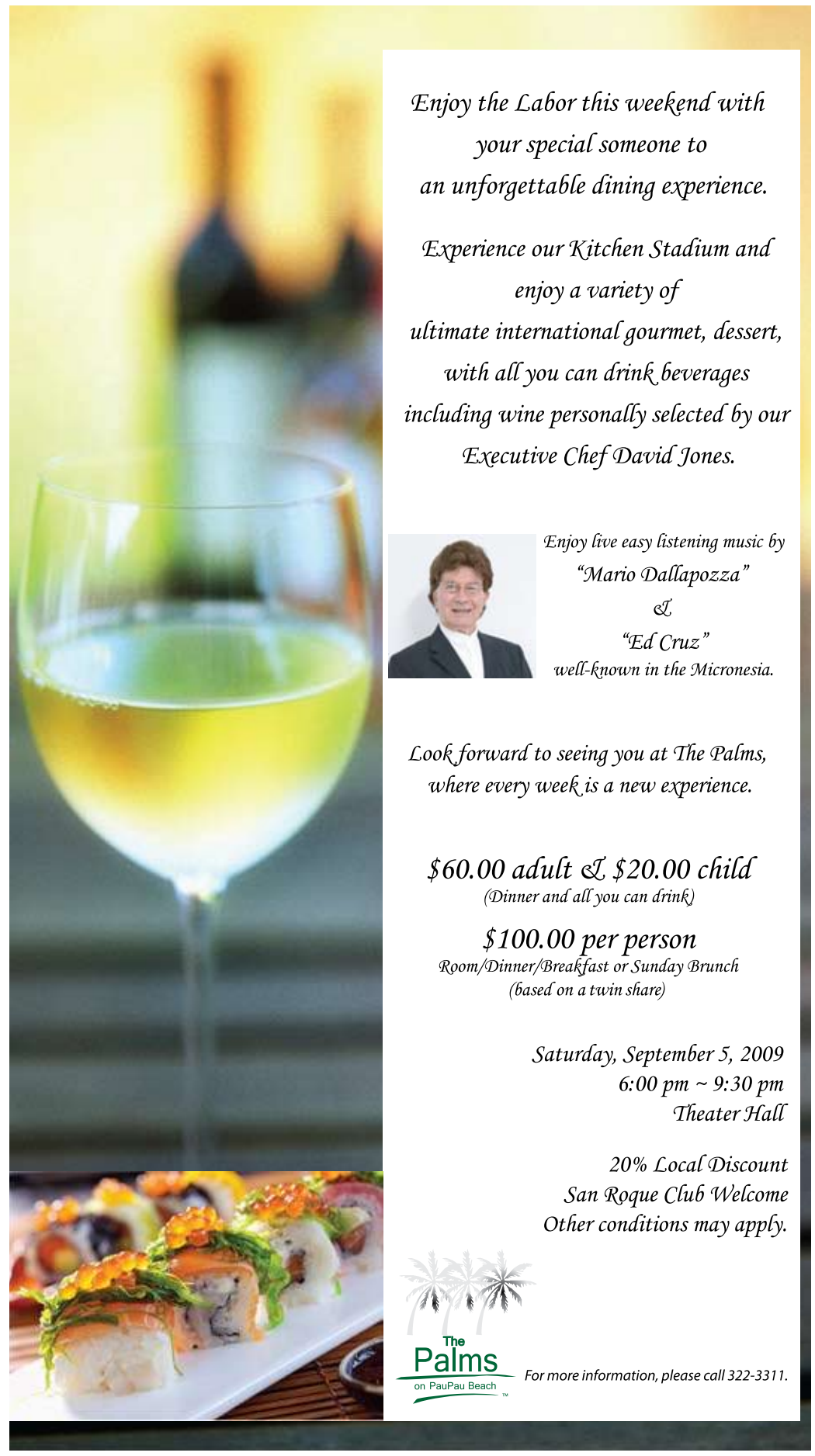
DCCA will be implementing the appropriate regulation monitoring system that would ensure equal protection to all and at the same time stimulate quality childcare programs on the islands.

Faisao said there is a need for the various agencies to provide a floor of protection for the children such as environmental health and safety in child care centers.

He also stressed the need for training among child caretakers or workers and providing them with learning opportunities.

He said these are the essential building blocks that could help the agencies achieve high quality child care programs.

"These would reduce long-range risks to the social, academic and economic success of the children," Faisao said.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ELECTION

From Page 1

In a statement issued yesterday, election board chair Frances M. Sablan informed all candidates that the commission will now "follow the intent" of Public Law 15-7 for the November election.

This means the ballot will be organized by race or offices wherein the names of candidates for a particular office or offices shall be placed together, identified as candidates for a particular office. The name of the candidate's political party or independent candidacy will be placed under the candidate's name on the ballot.

The decision was reached after the board's legal counsel met with the legal counsel of the independent team of Juan T. Guerrero and Joseph Camacho, who filed the initial protest over the board's "unlawful" decision.

The new board decision also cancels the ballot drawing conducted among candidates last week.

Sablan said the CEC executive director will conduct another drawings on Friday, Sept. 4, to determine each candidate's position on the ballot.

For candidates for governor, mayor and the Senate, the drawing is slated at 9am; House of Representatives candidates will have theirs at 10am; and contenders for the Board of Education and municipal council will be at 11am on the same day.

In the absence of a candidate, a CEC staff will draw on their behalf, Sablan said.

There are 110 certified candidates for 40-plus positions in the general elections on Nov. 7.

Saipan Tribune learned that the "closed-door" meeting between the board's legal counsel and the attorney for the Juan Pan & Camacho team happened yesterday morning, with lawyer Viola Alepuyo representing the independent tandem.

Clyde Norita, campaign manager for the Juan Pan team, told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that their camp is very pleased with the outcome.

"We're very happy that the election commissioners and their legal counsel were able to review our letter of protest and the attached documentations. Our team is very pleased that they found our concerns valid and sat down with us," Norita said, adding that reverting back to the original format of the election ballot is the only solution to the concerns raised.

He said the decision will provide equal placement for all candidates and would lessen confusion among CNMI voters.

Besides the Juan Pan team, independent candidate Tina Sablan also protested the election board's emergency regulation.

She expressed elation yesterday upon learning of the board's decision.

"I am glad…they did the right thing," she said.

Sablan said the emergency regulation approved last week caused great alarm, not only among the candidates but also among voters, regardless of who they are supporting in the election.

Under the emergency regulations adopted last week, the new ballot design would display the Covenant and Republican candidates in two columns on the front side of the ballot sheet while the back side will have the independent and Democrat candidates.

Sablan earlier said the regulations suggest an alarming and wholly inappropriate bias by the CEC in favor of political parties and against independent candidates.

SABLAN

From Page 1

decision of the CNMI Supreme Court and the Superior Courts is a "significant win for good governance and the right of the people to be informed and retain control over the government that serves them."

Press secretary Charles Reyes, when asked for comment, said the Fitial administration welcomes Sablan's request for additional documents.

"We believe we have already complied [with the court order]. If Representative Sablan has further questions, she is welcome to request additional documents and we will provide any other documents, if applicable or in existence, to comply with the [Open Government Act] and the ruling. We have provided what the court has ordered," Reyes said.

The law firm Jenner & Block LLP billed the CNMI $395,971.81 between Aug. 26, 2008 and Feb. 27, 2009, based on copies of invoices provided to Sablan by assistant attorney general Braddock J. Huesman Monday afternoon, as ordered by the CNMI Supreme Court on Friday.

The retainer payments made to Jenner & Block from the governor's accounts, in six installments between October 2008 and April 2009, totaled $300,000.

Reyes said "the amount of money spent, while significant, is paltry compared to the enormous costs to the CNMI if we lose the lawsuit and federalization proceeds as currently outlined in federal law."

He said the CNMI stands to lose many millions of dollars from the exclusion of Chinese and Russian tourists in the visa waiver program alone.

"This issue is very simple. The governor is against this version of federalization. Rep. Tina Sablan supported this federalization law and opposed the lawsuit. This law deprives us of vital Chinese and Russian tourists. This law has discouraged investors and new industries. The administration does not understand how Rep. Sablan could support federalization and oppose the lawsuit. Federalization does not even do anything for the nonresident contract workers Rep. Sablan wishes to grant U.S. permanent residency status. All it does is call for a DOI [Department of the Interior] report," Reyes added.

'Significant win'

Sablan said on the whole, the decisions of the Superior Court and the Supreme Court represent a "significant win for good governance and the right of the people to be informed and retain control over the government that serves them."

"The struggle to obtain basic public records these past 10 months, and the apparent gaps in the records that were finally released, however, serve as a powerful and troubling indicator that the CNMI's public officials still have a long way to go in terms of recognizing and respecting the critical importance of honest, transparent, and accountable government in ensuring a healthy democratic society. They also underscore the equally critical importance of active and vigilant citizens who know and pursue their rights to an open and responsive government," she said.

Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan and Associate Justices John A. Manglona and Alexandro C. Castro, in a decision issued Friday, said public disclosure legislation provides a vehicle for citizens to remain informed about the decisions of agencies and offices throughout the CNMI.

Copies of the documents released by the Fitial administration are available at www.tinasablan.com/forum.

"I plan to submit a follow-up request to the governor and the secretary of Finance for the abovementioned records that are apparently missing, and for records showing billings and payments made to date," Sablan said.

The CNMI filed a lawsuit against the U.S. government over federalization of the CNMI, asking the U.S. District Court for Washington, D.C. to order the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Department of Labor from taking over the local labor system.

Federalization is set to start on Nov. 28, 2009.

In March, Judge Paul L. Friedman of the U.S. District Court for Washington, D.C. said he would take under advisement the U.S. government's motion to dismiss the federalization lawsuit, as well as the CNMI's request for preliminary injunction to suspend labor provisions of Public Law 110-229, or the federalization law.

Friedman has yet to issue a ruling on the federalization case.

Reyes said "after all of the arguments were made and all of the briefs were filed, we are just waiting for a ruling and we should not have much attorney activity at this point and for the past few months."

Significant gaps

Sablan cited significant gaps in the records released thus far. For example, Jenner & Block invoice summaries released cover the time period beginning on Aug. 26, 2008, and ending on Feb. 27, 2009, and the Department of Finance records only show payments made to Jenner & Block between October 2008 and April 2009.

Sablan said the agreement between the Office of the Governor and Jenner & Block was first effectuated on June 6, 2008, according to the privilege log filed with the court by the Office of the Attorney General. The federalization lawsuit continues to this day.

Invoice, billing

Reyes said there is a difference between billings and payments.

"We have paid about $300,000. That is all so far," he said.

The documents released on Monday only included copies of the second to sixth retainer payments of $50,000 each for a total of $250,000. A separate document titled "supplier payment inquiry" reflected a retainer payment of $300,000 between Oct. 2, 2008 and April 17, 2009.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's memorandum authorizing the first retainer fee payment is missing, and at least three wire transfer authorizations made in November 2008 and January 2009 appear to also be missing.

Reyes said the retainer fee is normally subject to actual billings or actual work or hours performed.

"It can be offset by actual hours of service performed. Actual billings may be lower or higher than $50,000 per month depending on work performed," he said.

Redactions

Sablan said although the court had only authorized the redaction of private and sensitive bank account numbers in the records ordered for release, the Office of the Attorney General took the liberty of also redacting other public expenses that may have been connected to the governor's federalization lawsuit that were shown on the fund status reports ordered for release, and the names of contact persons and other information on the records showing wire transfers between the CNMI government and Jenner & Block.

"In addition, although the records released show at least six separate retainer payments made to Jenner & Block between October 2008 and April 2009, the governor's memo authorizing the first payment is missing, and at least three wire transfer authorizations made in November 2008 and January 2009 appear to also be missing," she said.

Reyes said the redactions do not pertain to the case at hand and were made pursuant to the advice of government attorneys, who have counseled absolute compliance with the court's order.

'AG not named anywhere'

Also conspicuously absent from the records released thus far, Sablan said, are the following:

The attorney general is not named anywhere as a recipient of any of these records, though special legal counsel Howard Willens is;

The records of payments made for Howard Willens' services connected to the governor's lawsuit are not included, though they would certainly have been responsive to the OGA request; and

There is no written record of the attorney general expressly authorizing or even acknowledging the retention of legal services by Jenner & Block on behalf of the CNMI.

Reyes said the lawsuit was authorized by the Office of the Attorney General, and that former acting attorney general Gregory Baka publicly covered this repeatedly in past news briefings and submitted documentation to the federal court.

"This is not an issue," he said.

The press secretary also said that the administration supports transparency in government, "but it also recognizes some very important legal and public policy exemptions, such as individual privacy rights that cover medical records, and litigation exemptions, which we have tested for the CNMI's benefit. We are satisfied with the result."

History

Sablan's initial Open Government Act request for information as to how much the government has spent on the federalization lawsuit, among other things, been directed to the Fitial administration in October 2008 and again in December 2008. Both had been denied in their entirety.

She filed a petition for mandamus relief in the Superior Court in February 2009. After a series of hearings, briefings, and an in camera review of the documents in question, the Superior Court ordered the release of 30 documents in June 2009.

The administration appealed to the Supreme Court immediately, and following briefings and a hearing in July, the Supreme Court on Friday ultimately upheld the trial court's order releasing the documents, and instructed the administration to make the records available for public inspection by 5pm on Aug. 31, 2009.

At 5pm on Monday, assistant attorney general Braddock Huesman turned over the 30 documents to Sablan.

TAIWANESE

From Page 1

Stevens Fisheries Conservation and Management Act.

"Our maritime domain awareness command center 'watch' spotted what looked to be behavior consistent with long line fishing activity in U.S. waters," said Lt. Cmdr. Jay Caputo, fisheries enforcement officer with the 14th Coast Guard District in Honolulu.

"We informed NOAA Office of Law Enforcement and NOAA General Counsel for Enforcement and Litigation of the situation and worked together to determine the best course of action," he said. "Ultimately, it was decided that the crew of our patrol boat would seize the vessel and escort it to Saipan."

The crew of a long-range C-130 aircraft from Coast Guard Air Station Barbers Point in Honolulu documented the alleged violations at a position 34 nautical miles within the U.S. EEZ on Aug. 26.

The crew of the 110-foot Coast Guard cutter *Washington* based at Sector Guam arrived on scene in time to intercept the fishing vessel 17 nautical miles within the U.S. EEZ on Aug. 27.

"Essentially, the fishing vessel is alleged to have stayed within the U.S. EEZ for some time—long enough for us to document from the air and to have a surface boarding team on scene in time to make the seizure," Caputo said.

The fishing vessel crew appeared to be heading west to exit the EEZ after the initial overflight of the C-130 air crew, said Caputo.

He said the crew of the cutter *Washington* arrived on scene before the *Te Hung Fa* could exit the EEZ and contacted the fishing vessel on VHF marine band channel 16 in both English and Chinese while the C-130 air crew monitored the situation from above. At that point, the *Te Hung Fa* was 17 nautical miles within the EEZ.

The Coast Guard said that NOAA's Office of Law Enforcement will investigate, gather evidence, including that captured by the Coast Guard, and work with the U.S. Attorney's office in Guam and NOAA's Office of General Counsel to pursue a case against the owners of the *Te Hung Fa*.

The Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act authorizes civil penalties of up to $140,000 per violation and full forfeiture of the vessel and its catch.

In a similar case of a 2006 violation of the U.S. EEZ of Howland and Baker Islands, a Marshalls Island-flagged fishing vessel owner paid a fine of $500,000 US in U.S. federal court in Guam in June.

"The Coast Guard prides itself on its fisheries conversation mission," Caputo said. "Enforcement in the waters around Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as well as other U.S. Pacific Remote Island Areas is essential to the management and sustainability of fish and other ocean resources throughout the Pacific. This is an inter-agency success for the protection of fisheries resources in the region."

U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam is responsible for monitoring and enforcing applicable laws in the U.S. EEZ around Guam and the CNMI. ***(U.S. Coast Guard)***

Ex-cop says he saw knife still lodged in victim's nape

A former police officer who responded to a stabbing incident in Afetna last year testified in court yesterday that he saw the victim with a knife still lodged in her nape.

In the ongoing jury trial of John Vincent M. Namauleg in the Superior Court, former police officer Jason Rekemesik said he was the second police officer to arrive at the scene after the Department of Public Safety received a report about a disturbance in Afetna on the evening of Feb. 24, 2008.

He said he saw a group of men carrying a woman on a board pallet and that a knife's handle could be seen sticking out the back of the woman's neck. Rekemesik said the victim was brought to the Commonwealth Health Center.

According to a police report, CHC doctors removed the knife in an operation on the victim, Yahui Tian, who sustained three stab wounds. Tian is now reportedly paralyzed on the left side of her body and legs.

Assistant attorney general Matthew Meyer showed Rekemesik some photos of a bathroom where bloodstains were found on the floor. Rekemesik recognized them as pictures taken at the crime scene.

Rekemesik said when he found bloodstains on the rooftop of a store near the scene, he called the crime scene technician and followed the trail of the bloodstains to some individuals drinking on a table.

Police arrested Namauleg the following night after the incident. He was detained for attempted murder, aggravated assault and battery, assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, disturbing the peace, and contempt of court.

Presiding Judge Robert Naraja cut Rekemesik's testimony yesterday as it was already lunch time and instructed him to resume his testimony at 1:30pm yesterday.

Saipan Tribune learned that Chief Public Defender Adam Hardwicke had already started his cross-examination on Rekemesik yesterday afternoon.

The trial will continue tomorrow, Thursday.

Police investigation showed that Tian had just arrived from church and was about to take a shower in the barracks' bathroom when Namauleg, armed with a knife, attacked her.

Witnesses who were inside one of the barracks' rooms heard screams and shouts from the shower room.

Witnesses saw a man sitting on Tian, who was lying naked on the floor. They shouted for help, prompting the man to run and climb the stairs to the rooftop of Siloam Market. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Tinian municipality OKs 62 scholars for the Fall semester

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Tinian municipality, through the local scholarship board, will provide educational financial assistance to 62 college students from the island this Fall semester.

Bill Cing, the Tinian mayor's chief executive officer, disclosed this to *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, saying each scholar will be given equal amounts.

Cing said a total of $54,000 is currently available under the municipality's educational assistance program this semester and it will be equally distributed to eligible scholars, for a total of $870 per qualified student.

"All 62 scholars will get an equal share from the available fund under the program. This would be a great help to them and their parents," he said.

As of yesterday 54 students have already been approved for the grant. The documents of eight other applicants are still being processed.

Aside from the municipality's assistance, Cing said many of these students also receive Pell grants and CNMI Scholarship awards.

To qualify for the assistance, new applicants were required to be enrolled at an accredited university or college. Ongoing students must meet the 2.5 minimum grade point average requirement.

There are currently eight students from Tinian who are pursuing degrees at the Saipan campus of the Northern Marianas College.

In the Spring 2008 semester, the Tinian delegation provided financial assistance to Tinian students who were forced to relocate to Saipan due to the closure of theNMC's Tinian campus. The financial assistance helped pay for lodging and travel expenses.

The Tinian Municipal Scholarship was also an added source of financial aid to the students.

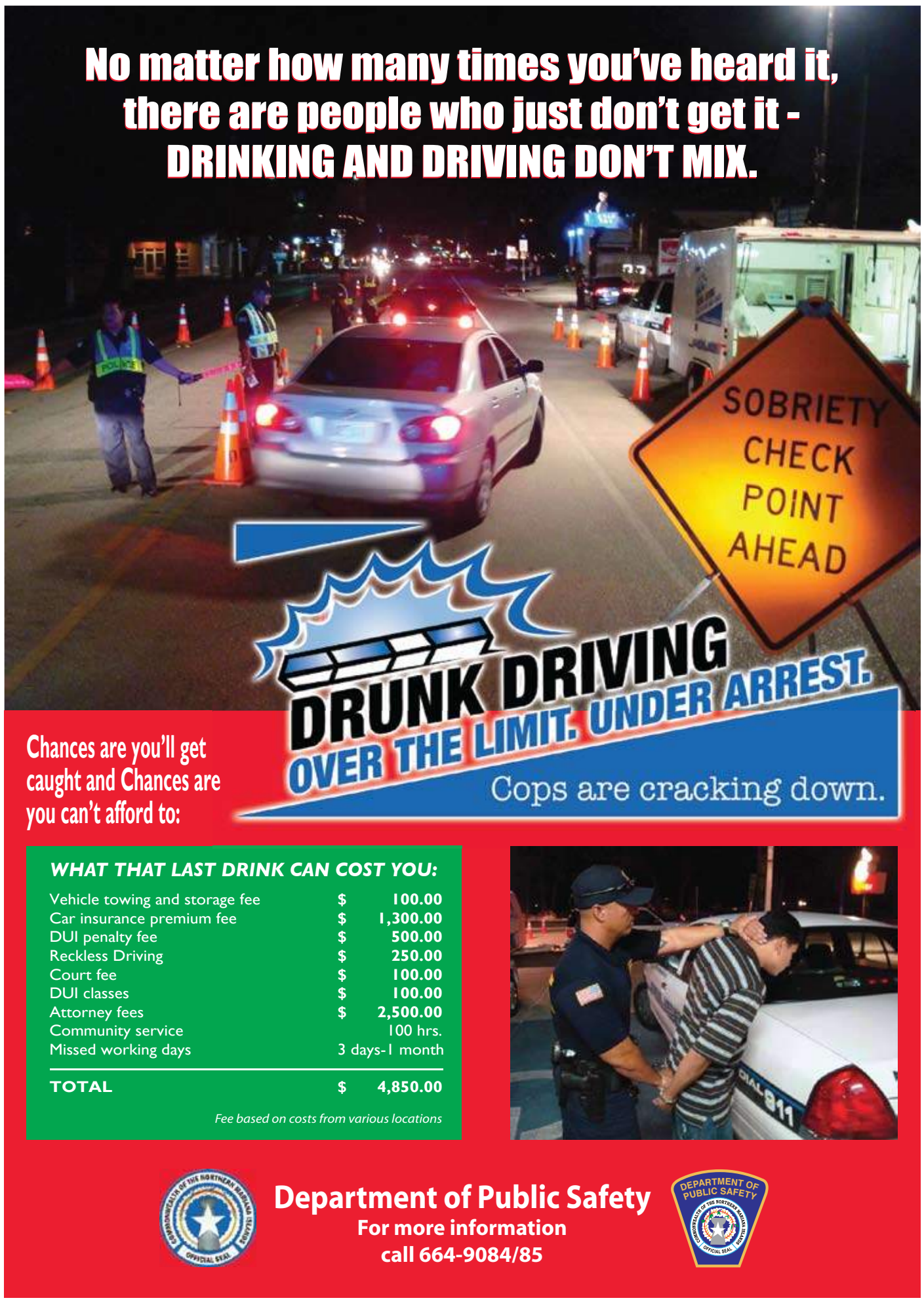
"We were extremely thankful to the Tinian delegation for assisting the students at a critical time," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

According to her, the college is actively working to assist students who have relocated from Rota or Tinian by personally assisting them secure funds through financial aid sources.

"We're also looking at other sources of funds, like the College Access Challenge Project, to ensure the successful transition of students from Rota and Tinian," Fernandez added.

She said staff members from the Tinian office regularly communicate with Tinian students on Saipan to assist them with other educational needs and to ensure that they have a positive learning experience while attending NMC.

At the start of the current semester, NMC invited various service providers from the government and from the private sector to speak to its students about their programs. These providers included the Nutrition Assistance Program, the Women, Infants and Children program, the Childcare Program from DCCA, and other organizations that offer services that may benefit students.


No matter how many times you've heard it,
there are people who just don't get it -
DRINKING AND DRIVING DON'T MIX.
SOBRIETY
CHECK
POINT
AHEAD
DRUNK DRIVING
OVER THE LIMIT. UNDER ARREST.
Cops are cracking down.
Chances are you'll get
caught and Chances are
you can't afford to:
WHAT THAT LAST DRINK CAN COST YOU:
Vehicle towing and storage fee $ 100.00
Car insurance premium fee $ 1,300.00
DUI penalty fee $ 500.00
Reckless Driving $ 250.00
Court fee $ 100.00
DUI classes $ 100.00
Attorney fees $ 2,500.00
Community service 100 hrs.
Missed working days 3 days-1 month
TOTAL $ 4,850.00
Fee based on costs from various locations
Department of Public Safety
For more information
call 664-9084/85

Woman on probation gets 9 months for 'ice' use

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court revoked yesterday the probation of a woman in a counterfeiting case and ordered her to spend nine months in prison for, among other violations, using methamphetamine or "ice."

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson said that, after serving nine months, Kisha Lyn Masga King will be placed on a 27-month probation.

Munson remanded King to the custody of the U.S. Marshal's Service.

The judge revoked King's probation after she admitted to all the violations found by the U.S. Probation Office.

Munson had imposed a three-year probation sentence on King in June and ordered her to perform 100 hours of community service and pay restitutions after finding her guilty of circulating counterfeit money on Saipan.

In February 2009, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Secret Service, with the assistance of local police, arrested King, Nestor Taitano and Lucas Taitano Manglona for circulating fake money.

In April, King signed a plea agreement with the U.S. government. She pleaded guilty to one count of conspiracy to utter counterfeit obligations and securities, and three counts of passing counterfeit obligations.

The U.S. government moved to revoke King's probation after U.S. Probation Officer Melinda N. Brunson found that the defendant had violated some of her probation conditions.

In a report she filed Friday, Brunson stated that on Aug. 3, 8, 23, and 24, 2009, King failed to report to the Marianas Psychiatric Services for drug testing.

She said King also failed to report four times in July to Marianas Psychiatric Services for drug counseling.

Brunson said she went to King's house on Aug. 10 to conduct a drug test and the defendant came up positive for "ice" use. Brunson said King admitted to using "ice" on Aug. 8.

Brunson said King also appeared at the Department of Corrections on Aug. 21 to collect car keys from an ex-convict who was recently arrested for other charges.

Brunson said among the probation conditions is that King shall not associate with any persons engaged in criminal activity and shall not associate with any person convicted of a felony unless granted permission to do so by a probation officer.

During yesterday's hearing, King appeared with her counsel, Loren Sutton. She admitted to all violations.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kirk Schuler recommended that the probation be revoked and that King should serve nine months in prison and be placed on 27 months of supervision.

Sutton said that federal prison would be appropriate since King could get the drug treatment and counseling she needs.

LISS RECEIVES DONATION CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of the LISS Humanitarian Group show off the donated supplies they recently received from couple Stephen and Marissa Sablan, currently residing in Plumas Lake, Sacramento California. The couple decided to make the donation after reading news articles about the class' cause. The class is raising funds to buy school supplies for indigent students in public schools.

BOE proposes rules on mandatory reporting of child abuse incidents

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Board of Education is proposing rules that will require public school officials and employees to immediately report child abuse incidents to authorities.

In the CNMI, child abuse is a crime. It includes a person purposely striking, beating or otherwise inflicting physical pain, injury or mental distress upon a child under the age of 18.

For the Education Board, it also includes a person purposely or neglectfully failing to provide adequate supervision, medical care, food, clothing or shelter to a child under the age of 18.

In the proposed regulation, any teacher or other school official who knows or has reasonable cause to suspect that a child has been, or will be, the victim of child abuse has a duty to report this knowledge or suspicion promptly to the Department of Public Safety.

Any reports made shall include all information available and necessary for an investigation and should be as detailed as possible.

At a minimum, the report should contain a statement of the time, date, circumstances and details or information that gave rise to the teacher's or school official's knowledge or suspicion.

The board stressed that the report will be kept confidential.

The proposed policy sets a 24-hour deadline for the teacher or PSS official to report the incident to authorities.

The board assured that any person making a good-faith report will be immune from any civil or criminal liability that might arise from such action and any disciplinary or administrative action.

Any teacher or PSS official who experiences harassment and intimidation for reporting the case are advised to immediately report to PSS for referral to the legal counsel, the Attorney General's Office, and the Criminal Division for possible investigation.

The board proposes a $1,000 fine or a one-year prison term for any PSS personnel who fails to make the report as required under the policy or attempting to prevent another from making the report.

Huge exposure for NMI in Nagoya's Domatsuri fest

The CNMI dancers are joined by 10 Domatsuri dancers of Nagoya. CONTRBUTED PHOTO

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI received nearly half-a-million dollars worth of free advertisements for its participation in the just concluded 11tth Annual Domatsuri Festival in Nagoya, Japan.

Pacific Development Inc. assistant general manager Gordon Marciano reported that the CNMI got valuable exposure in the Domatsuri event through commemorative booklets, media exposure, and "the millions of viewers watching the event on nationwide Japanese television."

He said the Domatsuri team from the CNMI, along with Korea and China, wowed the crowd with their guest performances.

"Although [the CNMI delegation is] the smallest group each year, they are also a favorite among the performers, who are inspired by the small but very energetic group and are always amazed at the attire worn by the CNMI team," Marciano said.

The delegation's presence was made possible with the help of Marianas Visitors Authority and PDI.

The Domatsuri festival is the biggest festival in Nagoya, taking place each summer and attracting dancers from all over Japan. In order to compete, groups have to have at least 40 members; most groups have more than 100 members each.

The festival started out with a small group in 1999 with a group of college students. The first festival drew 26 dance teams with 1,500 performers.

This year, a total of 200 dance teams with 23,000 performers from all over Japan and other countries joined the festival, which has an estimated 1.8 million viewers.

"It has become one of the largest events in Japan," Marciano said.

Domatsuri performers first visited the CNMI seven years ago to dance during the Liberation Day festivities.

From then on, the city of Nagoya has been collaborating with the CNMI through the Chamolinian Cultural Village, PDI, MVA and the Saipan Mayor's Office to promote the dance not only in Japan but also in the CNMI.

NOTIFICATION OF WIA DISLOCATED WORKER FUNDING PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

CATEGORY A: GENERAL DISLOCATED WORKERS. To qualify, an individual must meet the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment;
2. Is eligible for or has exhausted entitlement to unemployment compensation; OR has been employed or attached to the workforce for a duration sufficient to demonstrate to WIA, but is not eligible for unemployment compensation due to insufficient earnings or having performed services for an employer that were not covered under a state unemployment compensation law; and
3. Is unlikely to return to a previous industry or occupation.

CATEGORY B: PLANT CLOSURE. To qualify, an individual must meet one of the following three criteria:

1. Has been terminated or laid off, or has received a notice of termination or layoff, from employment as a result of any permanent closure of, or any substantial layoff at, a plant, facility, or enterprise;
2. Is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close within 180 days; or
3. For purposes of eligibility to receive services other than training, intensive or supportive services under WIA, is employed at a facility at which the employer has made a general announcement that such facility will close.

CATEGORY C: SELF-EMPLOYED or UNEMPLOYED. To qualify, an individual must meet the following criteria:

1. Was self-employed (including employment as a farmer, a rancher, or a fisherman) but is unemployed as a result of general economic conditions in the community in which the individual resides or because of natural disasters.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT WIA AT 664-1704;1707; 1708 OR 1757 or email us at gov.wia@pticom.com. All other program eligibility applies.

This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration.

EMO warns motorists of flooding

A large-scale monsoon rainband that was expected to affect the Marianas region has moved away farther west into the Philippine Sea but periods of heavy rain are still possible across the Marianas this week, according to the Emergency Management Office yesterday.

It said that, based on information received from National Weather Service in Tiyan, Guam, the monsoon rainband is now north of Palau and Yap, lessening the chance for prolonged rains across the Marianas.

"While periods of heavy rain remain possible during this week, rainfall accumulation should not greatly exceed what would be normal for this time of year in the Western Pacific," the EMO statement said. "The heavy rains could still cause flooding. However, breaks in the rainfall should be long enough to allow any flooding that occurs to abate.

EMO is reminding the public, especially motorists and residents in low-lying areas, to take precautionary measures for ponds of water on roadways, poor drainages and possible debris on the roadways at this time. ***(EMO)***

SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SENTOSA	025E	8/22 Sat	8/20 Thu	8/20 Thu	8/18 Tue	8/15 Sat	8/28 Fri	8/24 Mon	8/23 Sun	8/16 Sun	8/16 Sun	8/24 Mon	8/28 Fri	8/30 Sun	9/1 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	018E	8/29 Sat	8/27 Thu	8/27 Thu	8/25 Tue	8/22 Sat	9/4 Fri	8/31 Mon	8/30 Sun	8/23 Sun	8/23 Sun	8/31 Mon	9/4 Fri	9/6 Sun	9/8 Tue
MELL SENOKO	027E	9/5 Sat	9/3 Thu	9/3 Thu	9/1 Tue	8/29 Sat	9/11 Fri	9/7 Mon	9/6 Sun	8/30 Sun	8/30 Sun	9/7 Mon	9/11 Fri	9/13 Sun	9/15 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	026E	9/12 Sat	9/10 Thu	9/10 Thu	9/8 Tue	9/5 Sat	9/18 Fri	9/14 Mon	9/13 Sun	9/6 Sun	9/6 Sun	9/14 Mon	9/18 Fri	9/20 Sun	9/22 Tue
MELL SEMBAWANG	019E	9/19 Sat	9/17 Thu	9/17 Thu	9/15 Tue	9/12 Sat	9/25 Fri	9/21 Mon	9/20 Sun	9/13 Sun	9/13 Sun	9/21 Mon	9/25 Fri	9/27 Sun	9/29 Tue
MELL SENOKO	028E	9/26 Sat	9/24 Thu	9/24 Thu	9/22 Tue	9/19 Sat	10/2 Fri	9/28 Mon	9/27 Sun	9/20 Sun	9/20 Sun	9/28 Mon	10/2 Fri	10/4 Sun	10/6 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENTOSA	025E	9/5 Sat	9/6 Sun	9/6 Sun	9/8 Tue	9/9 Wed	9/11 Fri	9/13 Sun	SKIP	9/18 Fri	9/19 Sat	9/24 Thu	10/13 Tue	9/27 Sun	9/23 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	018E	9/12 Sat	9/13 Sun	9/13 Sun	SKIP	9/16 Wed	9/18 Fri	9/20 Sun	SKIP	9/25 Fri	9/26 Sat	10/1 Thu	10/20 Tue	10/4 Sun	9/30 Wed
MELL SENOKO	027E	9/19 Sat	9/20 Sun	9/20 Sun	9/22 Tue	9/23 Wed	9/25 Fri	9/27 Sun	SKIP	10/2 Fri	10/3 Sat	10/8 Thu	10/27 Tue	10/11 Sun	10/7 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	026E	9/26 Sat	9/27 Sun	9/27 Sun	SKIP	9/30 Wed	10/2 Fri	10/4 Sun	SKIP	10/9 Fri	10/10 Sat	10/15 Thu	11/3 Tue	10/18 Sun	10/14 Wed
MELL SEMBAWANG	019E	10/3 Sat	10/4 Sun	10/4 Sun	10/6 Tue	10/7 Wed	10/9 Fri	10/11 Sun	SKIP	10/16 Fri	10/17 Sat	10/22 Thu	11/10 Tue	10/25 Sun	10/21 Wed
MELL SENOKO	028E	10/10 Sat	10/11 Sun	10/11 Sun	SKIP	10/14 Wed	10/16 Fri	10/18 Sun	SKIP	10/23 Fri	10/24 Sat	10/29 Thu	11/17 Tue	11/1 Sun	10/28 Wed

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High court explains decision in OGA suit

On Friday, Aug. 28, the Supreme Court, in a unanimous decision, affirmed the trial court's order in *Sablan v. Fitial*, instructing Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to release financial records related to his federalization lawsuit against the United States.

Approximately one year ago, the plaintiff, Rep. Tina Sablan, requested access to these records pursuant to the Open Government Act. The records allegedly showed how much public money the governor has paid to the Chicago-based law firm of Jenner & Block in its representation of the Commonwealth. The governor, as well as former Secretary of Finance Eloy S. Inos, both initially refused to produce the documents Sablan sought.

In February 2009, Sablan sued both the governor and Inos in the Commonwealth Superior Court in an attempt to gain access to the records. In June 2009, after multiple hearings on the matter, and after reviewing the documents under seal, the Superior Court determined that Open Government Act required the officials to make the records available for inspection. The governor requested an emergency stay in the Commonwealth Supreme Court, which the Supreme Court granted so that it could conduct a comprehensive review of the Superior Court's decision.

Under the Open Government Act, government officials and agencies must allow citizens to inspect public records upon request. Public records may include documents such as official meeting minutes, maps, reports, and memoranda. In this case, both Sablan and the government agreed that the financial documents in question were in fact "public records" under the definition provided in the Open Government Act. The Act, however, lists certain types of documents that need not be disclosed. One such type is a document that is related to "pending litigation." Since the documents, which showed the Commonwealth's financial obligation to Jenner & Block, were related to the federalization lawsuit, they were exempt from the disclosure requirement. Nevertheless, this exemption does not apply if "exemption of such records is clearly unnecessary to protect . . . any vital government function." In other words, even if a document is exempt from disclosure due to its ties to "pending litigation," if there is no compelling reason to protect it from public view it must still be made available for inspection. The Supreme Court, therefore, had to determine whether disclosure of the financial records would harm the administration's lawsuit against the federal government.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Government lawyer Braddock J. Huesman, left, hands over to Rep. Tina Sablan (I-Saipan) the documents related to the CNMI government's lawsuit against federalization. Huesman turned over the documents to Sablan at 5pm Monday in the legislative building on Capital Hill, pursuant to a CNMI Supreme Court ruling on Friday.

Sablan claimed that the contents of the records did not have the potential to harm the governor's position in the federalization lawsuit. She argued that documents such as billing invoices do not give away any litigation strategy that the federal government could use to its advantage. Additionally, Sablan pointed out that all appropriation legislation—legislative acts granting money to various government entities, including the Office of the Governor—is already a matter of public record. Moreover, Sablan stated that the documents potentially show that the governor is diverting money from other agencies to fund the federalization lawsuit, and that the public has a right to know where its tax money is being spent.

The Supreme Court agreed with Sablan, and found that the federal government would not be able to use information in the records to its advantage in the federalization lawsuit. Additionally, the high court found merit in Sablan's proposition that legislative acts appropriating money to the Executive Branch were readily available to the public. Because of this, the need to protect the records was not as crucial as the government claimed. The high court also noted that several of the documents indeed showed that the governor had transferred money from other government accounts into his discretionary account to fund the lawsuit, and that, because of this, the federal government would not be able to determine how much money the governor was ultimately willing to commit to the federalization lawsuit. The Supreme Court emphasized the importance of the Open Government Act—to "provide a vehicle for citizens to remain informed about the decisions of respective agencies and offices throughout the Commonwealth. Without such knowledge, accountability falters, and officials are at liberty to expend public funds with minimal oversight."

The high court instructed the government to release the records to Sablan by Aug. 31, at 5pm. ***(PR)***

Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission
Special Business Meeting
5:00 p.m. Thursday September 3, 2009
Saipan Chamber of Commerce Office
Family Building, Garapan Street, Garapan.

Meeting Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission will conduct a special business meeting at 5:00 p.m. on Thursday September 3, 2009 at the offices of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to consider the following agenda. Public attendance is welcome. Reports and other documents relevant to the agenda can be found on the Chamber website under Public Utilities.

Agenda

1. **Call to order – quorum**
2. **Approval of minutes of April 2 and June 20, 2009 meetings**
3. **Docket 09-1: CUC Electric Division:**
   - Hearing examiner report - LEAC rate [April – September 2009] and related matters
   - LEAC order
   - Georgetown report regarding American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009
   - CUC petition for approval of CDA preferred stock transaction
4. **Docket 09-2: CUC Water and Wastewater Divisions:**
   - Georgetown report on water and wastewater lifeline rates
   - Hearing examiner report on proposed CUC revenue cycle audit and phase two of water and wastewater rate review
   - Status report on CUC interim financial plan under Federal Stipulated Order
5. **Telecommunications:**
   - Proposed administrative rule regarding certificates of public convenience and necessity
   - USAC certificates for Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation and PTI Pacifica Inc.
6. **Administrative business:**
   - Bank resolutions
   - Contract change orders
   - Protocol for CUC confirmation of need for regulatory assistance
   - Assessment orders for FY10 administrative expense budget
7. **Other business**

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Statewide Independent Living Council
FY 09' 3rd General Membership Meeting
PO Box 501521 Saipan, MP 96950, TEL.: (670)322-6537 FAX: (670)322-6536
TTY (670) 322-6449 EMAIL:voc.rehab@saipan.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910, the public is advised that the Statewide Independent Living Council will hold its FY 09 3rd General Membership Meeting on Thursday, September 3, 2009 at the Giovanni's Private Room Hyatt Regency Saipan at 10:00am-2:00pm. Interested individuals are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- **I. Call to Order/Preliminaries**
  - Review and Adoption of Agenda
  - Review and Adoption of 03/12/09 Minutes
- **II. Reports**
  - OVR Director's Report
  - CLI Director's Report
  - SILC Chairperson Report
  - 24th Annual International Technology and Persons with Disabilities Conference Presentation by Lydia Igitol
- **III. Old Business**
  - Follow up on SPIL Amendments/ Joint State Plan Forums for Saipan, Tinian, & Rota
  - SILC Empowerment & Advocacy Activities
  - Authorization for Disclosure
- **IV. New Business**
  - Status of ARRA funds CIL
- **V. Announcements**
  - Joint SILC/SRC Meeting
- **VI. Adjournment**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend the meeting but require accommodations such as large print or sign language interpreters, are asked to call 322-6537(voice) or 322-6449(TTY). Please contact Magin Iginoef (Council Liaison) two days in advanced for necessary arrangements.

Kaye Christian
SILC Chairperson

Publication of this notice was paid for with federal funds made possible by the United States Department of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services (OSERS)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 2, 1999

Guidelines for free trade zones OK'd

The proposed free trade zones in the Northern Marianas moved a step forward after the House of Representatives yesterday passed unanimously a measure providing the guidelines, including the creation of a government agency that will oversee the ambitious project. But the administration-backed legislation left open a plan to offer tax breaks and other incentives to potential foreign investors, citing the need to pass a separate measure that will deal with the financial component of the special economic sites. Introduced by House Speaker Diego T. Benavente last March, the bill went through a three-month review by the joint committees of Commerce and Tourism as well as Ways and Means to incorporate recommendations from the private sector and other public agencies.

New class schedule sparks dispute

The new class schedule for public schools on Tinian has sparked a dispute between the Public School System and Tinian teachers. PSS implemented this school year the Board of Education's decision to stretch the daily school hours at Tinian Junior High and Tinian High School from 7:30 am to 3:20 pm. The new class schedule is one-and-half hours longer than the previous schedule, and Tinian teachers are complaining."We were not consulted on this. Why do Tinian teachers and students have to be in the classroom for longer hours than those at Marianas High School and Rota High School?" asked one of the teachers who requested anonymity.

Sept. 2, 2002

Babauta wants monthly trade missions to Japan

Buoyed by the success of his Tokyo trip, Gov. Juan N. Babauta is proposing to send a trade mission to Japan on a monthly basis to make regular follow-ups on the commitments that he has obtained in terms of getting more tourists and investors from Japan to the CNMI. Describing the trip as arguably the most successful trip that he has ever taken in his entire career as an elected official, Babauta yesterday said he is so encouraged that he feels the Commonwealth should have a delegation—both government and private—going to Japan on a regular basis.

Calvos: Fennell may be draining BoS of cash

Bank of Saipan receiver Randall T. Fennell may be draining the bank of cash through exorbitant payments to attorneys who have connections to him, prompting the Calvo shareholders to ask the local court to block the payments and appoint a special master that will investigate the billings. The Calvos' suspicions were raised in a pleading filed before the Superior Court Friday, through counsel Michael W. Dotts. Fennell allegedly wants lawyer Michael White of White, Pierce, Mailman & Nutting to be the bank's collector for the total $35-million loans that are owed to the bank. Under the arrangement, White would be paid on a contingent fee basis and would be paid one-third of the amount collected.

Sept. 2, 2003

NMI to ink asylum pact with DOI

Asylum seekers may finally be allowed to apply for a status in the CNMI as the government is now poised to sign an asylum agreement with the U.S. government. Gov. Juan N. Babauta, in an interview, said he is set to sign an asylum memorandum of agreement with the Department of the Interior this month. Babauta said the MOA signing is a major issue that he and DOI deputy assistant secretary David Cohen had discussed during the latter's recent visit to the CNMI. "I hope to sign it together with Mr. Cohen most probably during my trip to DC this month," he said. The Internal Revenue Service, which was originally part of the proposed agreement, would not be a signatory to the MOA.

Saipan dialysis center in jeopardy

The much-awaited construction of the supposed $10 million Saipan dialysis center may not be done on time due to a faulty design and the lack of money to rectify the problem, according to House committee on health and welfare chairman Rep. Benjamin Seman. "We discovered about it only recently, and it's upsetting because we've all expected that everything is in order," said Seman, who noted that the Legislature already reprogrammed the remaining funds from the project knowing that the contract award reached only $5.4 million. "The Legislature was never informed that the design was problematic so it went ahead to move the money for other priority projects," said Seman, who added that his committee is already set to meet with DPH and DPW officials to discuss the issue.

Moylan's to make ETC donations today

Moylan's Insurance will be making several monetary contributions to educational institutions on Saipan today, Sept. 2, 2009.

Under the Educational Tax Credit program, Moylan's Insurance will be issuing checks to the following institutions today: Mount Carmel School, Marianas Baptist Academy, Calvary Christian Academy, Saipan Seventh Day Adventist School, and the NMI Humanities Council.

"Moylan's Insurance recognizes the importance of being a proud corporate citizen, and looks forward in these contributions helping to grow young minds," said Moylan's Insurance night manager Bobby A. Shringi. "This is also just a start, as more contributions will be made later this year." ***(PR)***

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Tinian High calendar of events

Sept. 4: Class Schedule for SY09-10 will be released from 8am to 11am at the THS front office. Parents/students are asked to pick the schedules on the above date and time.

Sept. 4: Welcome get-together (potluck) for all Tinian Elementary and Tinian High School staff at Tachogna Beach at 6:00pm. Everyone is asked to bring a dish and a pack of drinks. This will be a good time to meet the new teachers.

Sept. 5: Pitch in! All parents and the community are invited to join us and help with community cleanup at Tinian High School on Saturday, starting at 8:30am. Please bring your tools and equipment—bush cutter, machete, wheelbarrow, rake and gloves—and help clean up the campus for the opening of the school year.

Sept. 15: PTA meeting at the THS cafeteria at 7pm. Agenda will include election of officers. If you have any questions, feel free to call the following officers: Herman Hofschneider, Carla San Nicolas, Lynette Hofschneider, Annie King and Rose Lazaro.

For more information, call the office at 237-4162/4165. ***(PR)***

Saipan Chamber meeting today

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will have its monthly general membership meeting today, Sept. 2, at The Palms on PauPau Beach (Palms Resort). Speaking at the meeting will be U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan, who will update members on his activities in Washington, D.C. as well as the status of federalization. This will be a great opportunity to hear from, and ask questions of, Sablan, especially for those who were unable to attend one of his recent town hall meetings. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. The meeting is $15 for members, $20 for guests of members, and $25 for general public. ***(PR)***

Notice to MHS Class of 1979

The MHS Class of 1979's 30-year reunion family picnic will be this Saturday, Sept. 5, 2009 at the Minachoum Atdao pavilion in Susupe from 8am to 6pm. Bring your children and grandchildren and let's all have fun. Call Ms. Irene at 288-2596 or Pai Sablan at 285-9910 for details. ***(PR)***

LaoLao Bay Golf Resort donates $18K to TOC

Following the completion of the 14th annual Tournament of Champions, which was played on Aug. 1 and 2, the tournament is the beneficiary of additional funds. LaoLao Bay Golf Resort, the host course of the tournament, recently donated $18,910 to TOC.

TOC is an annual fundraiser for the Saipan Beautification Fund and has become known as *the* tournament in Micronesia. This year, $275,000 in prizes were up for grabs as the golfers hit the greens.

Since its inception, the TOC has raised $500,000. This money has been used to landscape the traffic medians from Garapan to the Palms Resort, the revitalization of the Garapan special district, the enhanced beautification of the Paseo de Marianas, lighting of the Beach Road Pathway, landscaping on the port-to-path walkway and other beautification projects.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tournament of Champions chair Ben Babauta is joined by other officers of the Saipan Beautification Fund to receive the $18,910 donation from the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort.

"On behalf of the TOC and the Saipan Beautification Fund, I would like to personally thank the team at LaoLao Bay Golf Resort," said TOC chair Ben Babauta. "Not only do they impress during tournament time, they also give back to the community. The money they have given will allow us to further enhance the beauty of the island of Saipan." ***(PR)***

PRIORITY OF SERVICE

Pursuant to the Jobs for Veterans Act (US PL 107-288) (38 USC 4215), priority of service is provided to veterans (and certain spouses) who otherwise meet the eligibility requirements for all employment and training programs funded by the USDOL to include funding under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

For more information, contact WIA at 664-1704; 1707;1708 and 1757 or email us at gov.wia@pticom.com.

This community outreach is funded by a grant made possible under the USDOL Employment and Training Administration.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

COMMONWEALTH ELECTION COMMISSION

September 1, 2009

To all Candidates in the 2009 General Election:

The Commonwealth Election Commission has decided that in accordance with the intent of Public Law 15-7, that this year's ballot will be organized by race or offices wherein the names of candidates for a particular office or offices shall be placed together identified as candidates for a particular office and the name of the candidate's political party or independent candidacy shall be placed immediately under the candidate's name on the ballot.

Accordingly, Executive Director will be conducting the drawings for individual candidate's location on the ballot for a particular race or office will be held on Friday, September 4, 2009 at the time times listed below at the Commonwealth Election Commission's office. *See NMIAC* Section 30-10-402(b). Each candidate has the option of drawing their own number the corresponds to their placement on the ballot under the respective office they are campaigning for, or having a representative do this for them, i.e. a representative of their political party. *See NMIAC* Section 30-10-402(b). Candidates who fail to participate in the drawing shall be drawn by the staff of the Commonwealth Election Commission.

9:00 a.m. Governor, Mayor and Senate
10:00 a.m. House of Representatives
11:00 a.m. Board of Education, Municipal Coucil

Thank you for your time and if you have any questions please contact the Commonwealth Election Commission at 664-8683.

/s/ **FRANCES M. SABLAN**
Chairwoman

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Darfur the intractable

ccording to the United Nations' military commander in Darfur, the war in Sudan's genocide-ravaged province is over. It would be nice if that meant the humanitarian crisis were finished, the U.N. peacekeepers could go home and President Obama could cross one big foreign policy headache off his list. But it really just means that an already complex problem has become even tougher to solve.

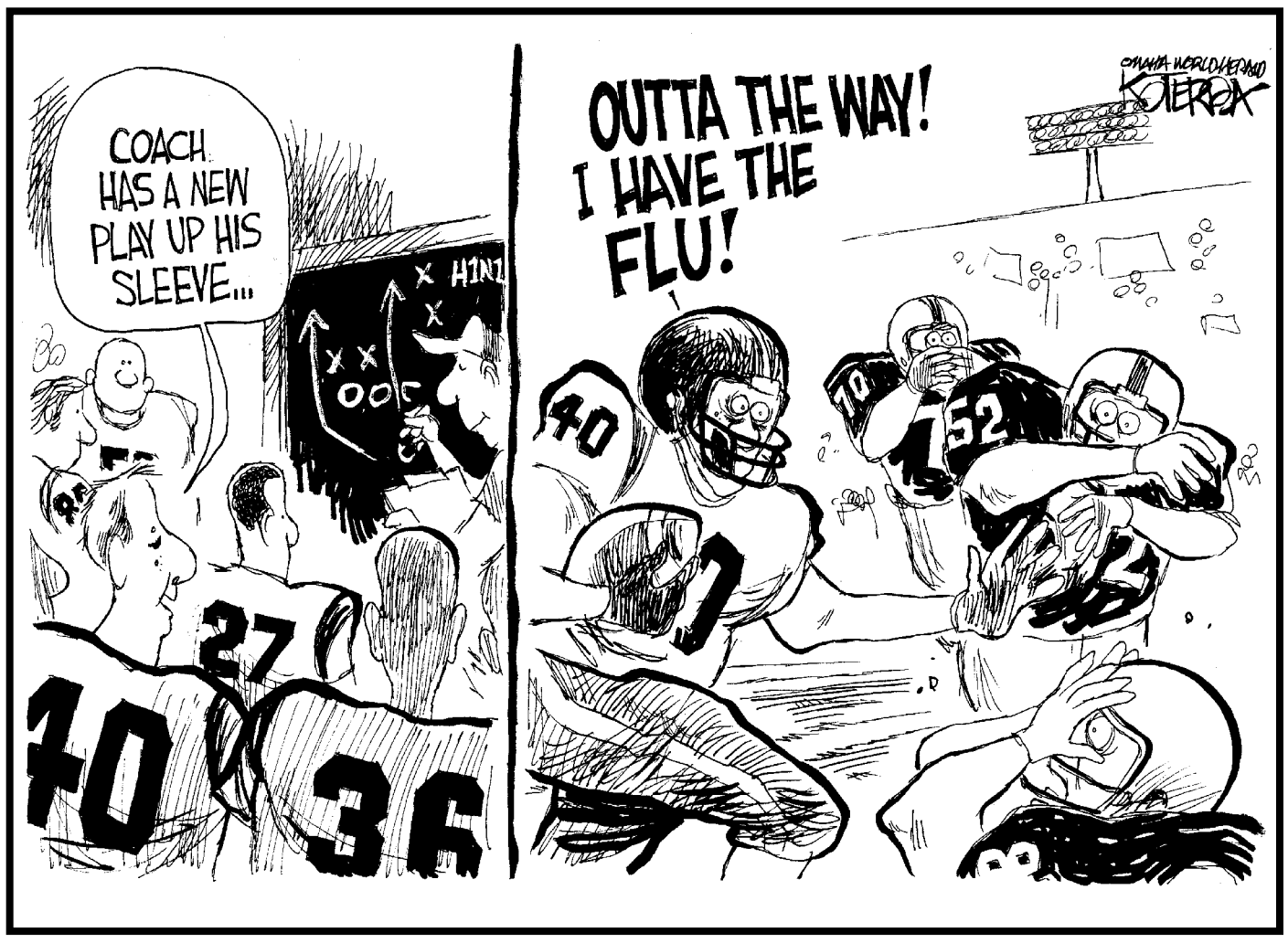
Gen. Martin Luther Agwai, ending his tour of duty as head of the joint U.N./African Union peacekeeping force in Darfur last week, said that instead of open war between rebels and government troops, there is now mostly low-level banditry by assorted armed groups. Yet if the fighting that broke out in 2003 is effectively over, the conflicts underlying it are still there. And it is still far too dangerous for the more than 2.5 million people chased from their homes by soldiers and government-armed Arab militias—part of a calculated strategy to crush Darfur's rebellion via ethnic cleansing—to leave the refugee camps. The biggest change is that it will now be even harder to reach a peace agreement between the government in Khartoum and the rebels, because the latter have fractured into multiple rival camps and don't speak with a unified voice.

It's understandable if the tragedy in Darfur has been low on Obama's priority list—he has been a bit busy trying to head off a deep U.S. recession, overhaul the nation's health care system and reinvent its energy infrastructure—but the millions suffering in Darfur need his attention to shift in their direction. His administration has been dismayingly late in developing its Sudan strategy, possibly reflecting a split within the State Department between those who favor even tougher sanctions against Khartoum and those who want to ease them.

Obama's special envoy on Sudan, Scott Gration, falls in the latter group. He has called for ending some of the trade restrictions placed on Khartoum by the Clinton administration 12 years ago because they're stalling important infrastructure projects in the country's southern region.

Gration might be right about the importance of developing the south, which faces a crucial vote on independence in 2011 and hasn't yet built the institutions a separate state needs. But we hope that when the administration finally reveals its Darfur plan in the coming days or weeks, it will focus on ways to tighten the screws on Khartoum—in particular by twisting arms at the Security Council to toughen international sanctions. If the killers who control Sudan have demonstrated anything in 20 years of bloodshed, it's that they respond more reliably to sticks than carrots.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

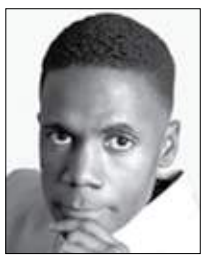


SINGLE ON SAIPAN, PART 2!

Even *more* dating advice from a business consultant

The only way to take control of your life, raise your standard of living and move beyond merely surviving is to create your own unique product or service that you offer to increasing numbers of people in exchange for the things of value that you desire. This simple formula applies to countries as well as people. A self-sufficient economy has its own products or services of value to export to the world. Similarly, a self-sufficient individual has something of value to exchange in the global marketplace. That thing of value is based on your natural talent, skill, or interest—in other words, your passion!

THE SAIPANPRENEUR PROJECT
Creating economic success for the CNMI
By WALT F.J. GOODRIDGE
Special to the Saipan Tribune



Send article suggestions, entrepreneur nominations and feedback about this article to walt@passionprofit.com.

Yes, it's back! Due to overwhelming public demand (okay, okay, the truth is, it was just one person, but I was overwhelmed, and she was in public), I've decided to write a sequel to my "Dating Advice" article of July 9, 2008 *(Search for it on www.saipantribune.com)*

It's a topic I find endlessly fascinating, and I've been reminded several times this week that my powers of observation, my penchant for categorization of details, and my passion for analysis are valuable for people-watching, and understanding and negotiating the dating scene here. (Hmmm, doesn't sound romantic when I put it that way, but....)

Again, just so Jayvee, my editor at the *Tribune,* doesn't revoke or reclassify my business columnist status, keep in mind that you can substitute the phrase "love life" anywhere in this article with "business life," and get great advice for your entrepreneurial venture, too.

Here, then, are some more tips in this "learn as you go" experience we call being Single on Saipan! I'm specifically going to address adapting to Saipan, for the ladies coming from a Western mindset.

Choose your identity

Many, many years ago, a friend of mine stated (this was during a "guys only" day out, mind you*), "Walt, there are only two types of women: women who want to be women, and women who want to be men!"*

It wasn't until years later, after contrasting the lifestyles of East vs. West here on Saipan, that the wisdom of that seemingly simplistic, chauvinistic statement dawned on me.

Assuming that you've made your choice (whether to be man or woman), I'm going to suggest to you that your presence here as a Saipan Single is presenting you with an opportunity for redefinition—redefinition of what a woman is, what a man is, and how closely or not you fit that new definition. Here are a few tips.

Men and women may be equal, but they're not the same.

Despite what we've been led to believe, men and women are not the same. I've observed that both men and women have allowed debates of *legal* equality, (equal pay, civil rights, voting, etc. that preoccupy us in the West) to confuse the issue of interpersonal relations.

One of the things that men here on Saipan remember about the life they left behind (operative phrase: "left behind") on the mainland is that ever-present feeling that the male-female interaction was more like an adversarial competition than a consensual coming together of mutually attracted parties. What they like about the relations on this side of the world is the naturalness of the male-female dynamic of difference, and that they don't feel they have to compete to prove anything, but are valued to fill needs for women that only men are equipped to. (Take that any way you wish!) In other words, they get the feeling, here, that women actually like men!

Ponder this quote I found during my research (emphasis mine):

"What distinguishes a friendship from an intimate relationship is the sexual element. Maintaining high contrast between the man and the woman is sexy. The more similar the man and the woman become, the more indistinguishable they are, the less interesting they become to each other, and the less they desire each other."

Tip: Apply the above quote to long-term relationships, and you may discover a secret for how to keep that spark going.

There are no 'shoulds' and 'musts' in this new paradigm.

Once you decide you want to be a woman, then a man's job is to reinforce that identity for you, and your job, as a woman is to reinforce your man's identity. Sometimes, aspects of the two may be contradictory, so someone's going to have to compromise. Let me give you two examples.

I once dated an Asian woman who, I would often notice, would walk behind me whenever we went out together. I asked her why she did that—given that I, of a Western mindset, associate that kind of behavior with subservience, feelings of inequality, etc.

She replied, simply, "It makes me feel taken care of."

Who was I to rob her of that feeling of security and safety by imposing Western ideals on her? I was in her culture, and my job was to make her feel like a special woman—whatever that meant to her. It wasn't that important to me and my sense of Western-defined

See EVEN on Page 11

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Letters to the Editor

Thoughts from a concerned citizen

Thanks to the relentless efforts of Rep. Tina Sablan, the governor (and his backers) must finally show the public where the monies had come from that were used to pay off their Washington lawyers…expensive lawyers hired in the *futile* attempt to stave off federalization.

Everything surrounding the government's efforts to sue the U.S. and prevent federalization is steeped in doubtful actions. From the initial dubious and quixotic reasons for the suit, to the secrecy surrounding the funding (to the tune of $50,000 a month), one is left with many questions, and no reasonable answers. Like much surrounding the current administration, the actions speak louder for personal gain and little for productive development of the CNMI. It has taken a young and novice congresswoman with a lot of smarts and guts to shed light on at least some of the inner, hidden agenda of the administration.

Not only taking on a less-than-transparent administration, Ms. Sablan also seeks to reduce government expenditures through a bill to limit legislators' operational expenses. There is little oversight on the use of these expenditures despite a Public Auditor's report seven years ago that reported such monthly allowances constituted an unjustified personal benefit in violation of public purpose. Hundreds of thousands of dollars are used for personal and political purposes each year at the expense of taxpayers' monies, and to the detriment of the people of the CNMI. We should be very thankful for the singular efforts of Ms. Sablan in working toward a more transparent and accountable government.

On another topic, it has been strongly rumored that some heads of departments, often political appointees who are ill chosen for such positions, have been using their work time for campaigning in favor of the current administration—actually, arm-twisting and threatening would be a more realistic term. This, of course, is illegal and unethical. I would encourage those people witnessing this behavior of any department head to do the right thing and contact the Attorney General's Office.

Of concern to all (except those who have the money to seek care in the Philippines or Hawaii), the islands' hospital is falling apart. Morale is at an all-time low. Lack of physicians is well known, often driven away by poor administrative practices and overall lack of concern in trying to retain providers. People are literally afraid to go to CHC. What is more basic to a society than health care, safety, and education? And, yet these appear to be the least priorities for the administration. Which is a better use of $50,000 a month: hire overpaid lawyers in Washington D.C. to engage in a battle lost before it started, or hire physicians, nurses, and other providers to care for the islands' ill?

A recent survey of patients, staff, and visitors at CHC by Rep. Ralph Torres should provide some interesting and provocative results. The survey's bottom line strongly suggests that maybe it's time to either go private, or to hire management that has expertise in hospital administration. As opposed to continue hiring political appointees who run by crisis management, with little effort toward a workable plan for improvement of supplies, retention of employees (which includes physicians), and customer service. One can only conclude that health care is not a priority for this administration but it certainly suggests what the administration does think about the vast majority of the people making up the CNMI.

Recently, U.S. Rep. Gregorio Kilili Sablan was on congressional recess and came home to visit family and friends. He had little free time to spend with his family, as it appears he never stops working. Judging from what he has done so far in Congress to the benefit of the CNMI, it is obvious he takes the job seriously. He has done more positive for the CNMI in one year than the current administration has done in the last four years. Keep up the good work, Kilili. Continue to do what is best for the people.

And lastly, Agrekko is leaving. That will be a savings of $500,000 a month. Of course, had the people who were overseeing CUC in the first place been doing their job and ensuring proper upkeep, we probably would not have had to spend all this money. It would seem that there has been a parade of CUC managers more interested in bilking the taxpayers and the federal government than in doing anything positive toward maintaining a reasonable energy program. By the way, did anyone ever hear Tim Villagomez apologize for what he did or offer to pay back the money he stole? Is it possible his boss knew nothing about what had happened? And did anyone in local government do anything about this crime? I guess it will make these white-collar thieves think twice about trying to rip off federal funds and just stick to the safer local corruption. Maybe that is why some folks are fighting so desperately against federalization. Never has there been a more clear time in which to clean out corruption, nepotism, waste, and the deadwood piled up on Capital Hill. These are just thoughts of one who cares for honest government and the future of the CNMI!

Bill Weiss
Puerto Rico, Saipan

Power crisis over?

We find it rather amusing that this administration and its executive director for CUC would actually state that "CUC was broken" and that Power Plant 1 was producing 8 megawatts in 2008. Who broke our power engines? Who was in charge of CUC in 2008?

Who removed all the mechanics during the 15th Legislature in 2007 in order to push the privatization efforts of our power plants? Today, the governor and CUC's executive director are boasting about Power Plant 1 producing 35.5 megawatts. What ever happened to the "never before seen power generation" of 80 megawatts promised by the governor during his State of the Commonwealth Address twice? Is Power Plant 2 back on line? Does this 35.5 megawatts power production include the 15 megawatts at Power Plant 4? If so, then the total production is actually 20.5 megawatts.

Where is our backup power generation? How many engines are actually operating in Power Plant 1?

Can this 35.5 megawatts of power production sustain its capacity once the 600 or more disconnected consumers are reconnected and back on line?

What about the megawatt capacity the hotels require? We believe that each hotel requires approximately 1.2 megawatts, with Palms Resort needing over 3 megawatts.

Add all this critical factors and deduct them from the 35.5 megawatts being boasted by the governor and the CUC executive director and see how many megawatts will be left.

Stop fooling the people of the Commonwealth!

Gregorio Cruz Jr.
Taotao Tano CNMI Inc.

'Please take your trash'

My wife, our kids and I visit my father-in-law every Sunday at the Chalan Kanoa cemetery. This is a time for us to teach our kids the value of paying respect for the departed.

However, when we get there, we are reminded that some people lack respect. What do I mean by this? Trash. As we are walking toward the grave, the first thing we see is a huge pile of trash near it. I'm not sure who would leave their trash from cleaning their love one's grave upon someone else's, but where is the respect? How would you feel, if the next time you visited your loved one, there was a massive pile of trash, empty candle containers, used flowers, grass and weeds sitting nearby? It would probably upset you, right?

Let's be a little more courteous to others by taking our trash with us. Thank you. Do something nice for another and see how good it makes you feel.

Chong M. Won
Kagman 3, Saipan

EVEN

From Page 10

equality that she walk next to me, so I let it go. Made her happy.

Second story: I dated a girl who, to show her affection for me, would constantly clean my apartment, wash dishes, do laundry, etc. Sometimes it would get overwhelming (OK, maybe I'm a slob), and I would ask her to stop. She would, feeling well within her presumed "role" as a good woman, continue to clean, believing she was doing the right thing, and that it would ultimately make me happy. Frankly, I was surprised at how much this annoyed me. I would have to ask two or three times before she would finally quit the darn cleaning! Over time, this seemingly trivial dynamic started to have a negative effect on my desire for her. After much reflection and self-analysis, and as I learned more about my own "wiring," I discovered why.

I believe that I, like many men, like to feel in charge—to be head of the household. My girl, through this simple act of "defiance," was becoming an adversary, competing with me, depriving me of the feeling of being in charge of my space—at least that's how my ego reacted. Pretty deep, huh?

So, in the same way that it was important for me to honor what made woman #1 feel "taken care of," and decide who should win, woman #2 needed to know and honor what made me feel "in charge" and decide what was more important—her desire to clean my house, or my sense of manhood (P.S., we worked things out!)

The bottom line is this: There are no "shoulds" and "musts" here. Yes, you have a right to determine what you want from a partner. However, your exposure to the multiplicity of cultural paradigms here on Saipan requires that you acknowledge that the very definition of man and woman, what men expect from women, and what women expect from men are all different. If you seek to impose your "strange" Western ways and make every point of contention "non-negotiable," you'll be fighting an uphill battle with the almost predetermined outcome that you won't ever get to the top of the hill. Here on Saipan, the dating game is a whole different hill. No, better yet (to mix an entirely different metaphor using a scene from the movie *The Matrix*): "Don't try to climb the hill, Neo. Realize instead, there is no hill!"

Be true to who you are and what you like

Now, it may seem that I'm contradicting what I just stated above, but what I am saying is that *after* you clear the slate, open yourself to the new definition and identity, create a new, more authentic set of likes and dislikes based on your innate wiring (and not based solely on societal norms), *then* you can discover what you truly like and go after it.

Remember, some of your "wiring" is embedded deep into your gender identity, and some are simply beliefs you've been fed by society. You need to really assess which ones you should keep, and which to let go. That may include everything from your views on sexuality, monogamy, marriage, gender roles, child care, cohabitation, and anything else that comes along with your views on dating and mating.

Incorporate your fantasy life

Here's a little something extra to spice things up. Here in this new paradigm, you are being given an opportunity for redefinition. With a clean slate to write on, you can now compose a life story that allows you to live out your dreams of what a fulfilling relationship might be. The farther away your dream life is from the life you've settled for, the more frustrated and unfulfilled you'll become, and the more likely your "settled life" will result in unhappiness.

Rail against it if you will, but the fact is, you're not in Kansas anymore, Dorothy! Heed the winds of the prevailing paradigm, recognize the freedom it affords you, and allow yourself to live a dream!

Summary

I'll end this discussion here for now. However, in case you overlooked the business tie-ins to all the previous points, here is a summary so you can apply them to starting a new passion-centered business (as well as igniting that dating spark you're seeking):

1. Choose your new identity.
2. Celebrate your inborn uniqueness as a man/woman.
3. Reconsider the "shoulds" and "musts" in your life.
4. Be true to who you are and what you like.
5. Live your dream life…with as much passion as you can muster!

Please share your thoughts with me for future articles in the "Single on Saipan, um, Business Column!" Women especially, please! (I await the torrent of e-mails accusing me of setting the women's movement back, but welcome any and all feedback!)

Next time: All the Single Ladies...will speak out!

■ ■ ■

Note: Fans and followers of the book, *Chicken Feathers and Garlic Skin: Diary of a Chinese*

Garment Factory Girl on Saipan may now request copies here on Saipan by emailing me walt@passionprofit.com, or Amazon.com.

***Note**: Ever wanted to direct your friends and family to a set of websites that said good things about Saipan? Do what I do: send them to www.bestofsaipan.com!*

■ ■ ■

Until next week, remember, success is a journey, not a destination!

Walt F.J. Goodridge is author of 15 books including Turn Your Passion Into Profit. Walt offers coaching and workshops to help people pursue and profit from their passions. Originally from the island of Jamaica, Walt has grown several successful businesses in the US, and now makes his home here in Saipan. To learn more about the Saipanpreneur Project and Walt's philosophy and formula visit www.saipanpreneur.com and www.passionprofit.com.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms. Southwest winds 15 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated shower and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated shower and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated shower and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲86° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

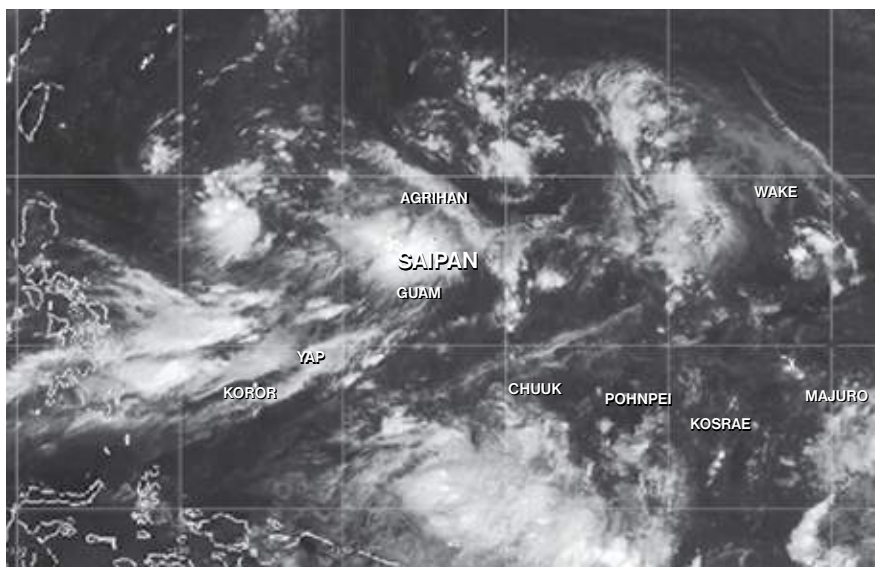
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Rain	▲85	▼78
Palau	Cloudy	▲88	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲88	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲87	▼77
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲89	▼73
Kosrae	Showers	▲90	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼78

Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲59	▼45
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲81	▼59
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲91	▼81
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼78
London	Showers	▲70	▼55
Los Angeles	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼66
Manila	Rain	▲84	▼77
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲66	▼50
Miami	Thunderstorms	▲89	▼76
New York	Sunny	▲78	▼62
Osaka	Showers	▲84	▼72
Paris	Showers	▲68	▼53
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲77	▼70
Rome	Sunny	▲85	▼65
Salem	Mostly Sunny	▲81	▼52
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲72	▼58
Seoul	Sunny	▲81	▼59
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲77	▼70
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	▲80	▼62

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The monsoon trough extends eastward from Luzon through a broad circulation centered northwest of the Marianas near 17N135E through another very weak circulation centered east of the Marianas near 19N150E then continues southeastward to end near Majuro at 8N170E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms can be found near Koror and over Yap within 150 miles of a line from 11N130E to 10N143E northwest of the Marianas between 16N and 21N from 133E to 137E and over parts of the Mariana Islands within an area bounded by a line from 17N140E to 15N144E to 16N147E back to 17N140E. An upper-level low centered near 20N151E is interacting with the circulation at 19N150E to generate scattered showers and a few thunderstorms west of Wake Island within 100 miles of a line from 14N150E to 15N161E to 23N158E to 23N149E. Convergent west winds are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms south of Chuuk between the equator and 5N from 143E to 154E. Trade-wind convergence is generating a large area of scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Majuro or southeast of a line from 12N178E to 4N169E. The remnants of tropical depression 02C are producing scattered showers within 100 miles of 16N169E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:21 AM Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
5:19 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:34 PM Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
7:20 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:29 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:28 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:27 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:26 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:26 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:51 PM	3:49 AM
Thursday	5:28 PM	4:38 AM
Friday	6:04 PM	5:26 AM
Saturday	6:39 PM	6:14 AM
Sunday	7:15 PM	7:02 AM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF AUGUST 18, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

C0941	5:30am	8:05am	Daily
NW99	6:05am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily
C0943	5:25pm	8:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	Daily via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

C0942	9:25am	1:55pm	Daily
NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily
C0944	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	Daily

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ716/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:

- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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Business

STOCK Portfolio

ASIAN MARKETS

AUSTRALIA
4,505.00
Up 20.90
(+0.47%)

HONG KONG
19,861.60
Up 137.41
(+0.70%)

JAKARTA
2,350.13
Up 8.59
(+0.37%)

TOKYO
10,533.14
Up 40.61
(+0.39%)

K. LUMPUR
1,169.68
Down 4.59
(-0.39%)

MANILA
2,852.93
Down 31.25
(-1.08%)

SINGAPORE
2,618.70
Up 25.80
(+1.00%)

SEOUL
1,610.11
Up 18.26
(+1.15%)

BANGKOK
657.57
Up 4.32
(+0.66%)

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW
9,496.28
-0.50%

S&P
1,020.62
-0.31%

NASDAQ
2,009.06
-0.97%

MONEY MARKET

Australian Dollar	1.1879
British Pound	0.614
Canadian Dollar	1.0938
Chinese Yuan	6.8306
Euro	0.6970
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7507
Indian Rupee	48.7350
Indonesian Rupiah	10,112.5000
Japanese Yen	93.0250
Malaysian Ringgit	3.5295
New Zealand Dollar	1.4571
Philippine Peso	48.8350
Singapore Dollar	1.4405
South Korean Won	1,245.8000
Swiss Franc	1.0581
Taiwan Dollar	32.8615
Thailand Baht	34.0100

In U.S. dollar terms

Source: Associated Press

Survey: Support for Fed, jitters on spending

NEW YORK (AP)—Economists are pleased with the Federal Reserve's policy on interest rates but skeptical of the government's ability to rein in spending, curb greenhouse gases or overhaul health care, a new survey finds.

The latest semiannual survey by the National Association for Business Economics, set to be released Monday, indicates almost 70 percent of the 266 economists surveyed earlier this month think the Fed's monetary policy is "about right," up from 63 percent in March and 56 percent a year ago.

The results come as indicators point to an improving economy, presenting policy makers with wrenching decisions over how quickly to roll back measures taken in the past year to avert a financial collapse. Quick action risks plunging the economy into another dive, while moving too slowly could drive inflation.

Meanwhile, the Obama administration is taking ambitious steps to simultaneously curb greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, cut health care costs and reform financial regulation.

"This is almost certainly one of the fastest-moving and most controversial economic policy environments we have experienced in a generation," said NABE President Chris Varvares, president of Macroeconomic Advisers LLC.

Fed Chairman Ben Bernanke, appointed by the president last week to a second four-year term, cut the fed funds rate to near zero last December to reduce the cost of borrowing and introduced a slew of emergency lending programs.

The survey found economists split on what should come next, with 49 percent saying the Fed should leave monetary policy alone over the next six months and 45 percent in favor of a more restrictive policy. However, 56 percent versus 44 percent said they expect the Fed to leave interest rates untouched rather than hiking rates to avoid inflation.

While economists think the Fed is targeting a 2 percent inflation rate, they expect the actual rate of core inflation to average 3 percent from 2014 to 2018.

The prediction reflects economists' concerns about the federal government's ability to reverse the steps it has taken to stimulate growth. A large majority doubt federal lawmakers can bring down spending. Three quarters said they want a more restrictive fiscal policy over the next two years—only 28 percent expect it to happen.

About 58 percent predict the government's fiscal policy will boost economic growth by between a half and one-and-a-half percentage points over the next year. Just over three quarters of the economists surveyed say no new stimulus package is needed.

Drugstores to start giving flu shots Tuesday

NEW YORK (AP)—Drugstore operators are beginning their seasonal flu shot campaigns several weeks early this year, saying they expect greater demand for the vaccine in a year when the swine flu strain has dominated the news.

CVS Caremark Corp. and Walgreen Co. are making flu shots available starting Tuesday, while Rite Aid Corp. said some of its pharmacists are already giving the shots. The vaccine is intended to prevent the seasonal flu and is separate from vaccines for swine flu. A swine flu vaccine could be ready by mid-October.

CVS said it was offering the shots three or four weeks earlier than usual. Walgreen said it started giving flu shots Oct. 1 last year.

CVS and Walgreen each run about 6,900 stores around the country, while Rite Aid has about 4,800. Walgreen said the shots will be available at almost all of its stores and about 350 of its Take Care retail clinics, and CVS said it will give the shots at scheduled events in many of its stores and at all 500 of its walk-in MinuteClinics. Pharmacists at about 1,500 Rite Aid stores will be able to give the vaccination.

Walgreen pharmacies and clinics will have an immunizing pharmacist on duty daily 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. from Sept. 8 to Sept. 30. Starting Sept. 15, CVS said it will hold more than 9,000 "flu shot clinic events" at its stores, where pharmacists or other health care workers will give the injections. Rite Aid, which is based in Camp Hill, Pa., will run clinics at more than 1,800 of its stores starting Sept. 23.

CVS and Rite Aid will post schedules of the clinics on their Web sites.

Disney catches comics giant Marvel in a $4B web

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The Walt Disney Co. is punching its way into the universe of superheroes and their male fans with a deal announced Monday to acquire Marvel Entertainment Inc. for $4 billion, bringing characters such as Iron Man and Spider-Man into the family of Mickey Mouse and "Toy Story."

The surprise cash-and-stock deal sent Spidey senses tingling in the comic book world. It could lead to new rides, movies, action figures and other outlets for Marvel's 5,000 characters, although Marvel already was aggressively licensing its properties for such uses.

The deal won't have benefits right away, and Disney stock sank on the news. Disney expects a short-term profit hit, and Marvel characters from X-Men to Daredevil are locked up in deals with other movie studios and theme parks. But Disney's CEO, Robert Iger, promised an action-packed future.

AP

In this Nov. 11, 2004 file photo, a man looks at an advertisement for the Spider- Man movie in Copenhagen, Denmark.

"'Sparks will fly' is the expression that comes to mind," Iger told analysts.

Stan Lee, the 86-year-old co-creator of "Spider-Man" and many more of Marvel's most famous characters, said he was thrilled to be informed of the marriage Monday morning.

"I love both companies," he said. "From every point of view, this is a great match."

The deal is expected to close by the end of the year and marks Disney's biggest acquisition since it purchased Pixar Animation Studios Inc., the maker of "Up" and "Cars," for $7.4 billion in stock in 2006.

Wal-Mart to sell goods from other vendors on Web

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—Wal-Mart Stores Inc. has launched an addition to its online business that has outside retailers selling nearly 1 million new items through Walmart.com, a move that could help the world's largest retailer catch up in the online world.

The Walmart Marketplace has products from categories that include home, baby, toys, apparel, sporting goods and sports memorabilia. The company said it picked the retailers—including eBags, CSN Stores and Pro Team—because they have large product assortments and solid customer service track records.

Retail consultant Burt Flickinger III said Wal-mart can use online sales an area for growth, especially considering how the company's stores have saturated much of the U.S. market. He said Wal-Mart can also draw online customers from the European continent and South Korea, where it no longer has stores.

"This gives Wal-Mart a chance to close the widening gap with Amazon.com and Apple," Flickinger said.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Stocks end strong month with a bout of selling

NEW YORK (AP)—After giving the stock market a big gain during August, investors still worried about the economy backtracked the final day of the month. Stocks fell in light trading Monday after a 6.7 percent plunge in China's main stock market sent a wave of selling around the world and added to concerns that stocks have rocketed too high, too fast since hitting 12-year lows in March. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 3.4 percent in August for its sixth straight monthly gain, advancing despite some periodic choppy trading as investors fretted about an economic recovery. It is up 50.9 percent since early March, the best six-month run since 1938.

Southwest faces Tuesday deadline to replace parts

DALLAS (AP)—Southwest Airlines Co., facing a Tuesday deadline to settle a dispute with regulators over the use of unapproved parts, said Monday the parts were installed on almost twice as many planes as it first believed. The airline also has suspended the maintenance firm that got the parts from a subcontractor. Southwest said Monday it has replaced the unapproved parts in more than 25 planes but needs more time to find parts for the remaining jets and avoid a disruption in its service to its customers. Without an extension, the Federal Aviation Administration could force the airline to ground some planes.

Taco Bell settles Tenn. sex harassment complaint

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP)—Taco Bell Corp. has agreed to settle a sexual harassment complaint stemming from allegations that two teenage employees were raped at a Tennessee restaurant. According to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, Taco Bell agreed to pay two 16-year-old employees in Memphis a total of $350,000. The commission said Monday that one of them was assaulted on her first day at work and the other had been raped earlier. Officials say their supervisor, Terence E. Davis, pleaded guilty this year to raping both of them and is serving two concurrent eight-year prison sentences.

Head of Boeing's commercial jets to step down

Boeing Co. said Monday that Scott Carson will step down as head of its commercial airplane division, ending a tenure marked by costly problems with the company's much-delayed 787 jetliner. The Chicago-based company said Carson will be succeeded Tuesday by the head of its defense business, Jim Albaugh. Carson will help with special projects until the end of the year, when he will retire after 38 years with the company. Carson's departure comes as Boeing struggles with sharply lower orders amid the global economic downturn, which has hurt demand for air travel.

Nation

Deadly wildfire surges closer to Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A deadly wildfire destroyed more than four dozen homes as it blackened a wide swath of tinder-dry Southern California forest, forced thousands of residents to flee and burned dangerously close Monday to a vital mountaintop broadcasting complex.

Fire crews battling the blaze in the Angeles National Forest tried desperately to beat back the flames and prayed for weather conditions to ease. The fire was the largest of at least eight burning across California after days of triple-digit temperatures and low humidity.

The fire scorched 164 square miles of brush, destroyed 53 homes and threatened more than 12,000 others, but the lack of wind kept them from driving stormily into the hearts of the dense suburbs northeast of Los Angeles.

The 53 homes destroyed included some forest cabins, said U.S. Forest Service spokesman Dennis Cross. He did not have an immediate breakdown on how many of the structures were full-time residences.

Columns of smoke billowed high into the air before dispersing into a gauzy white haze that burned eyes and prompted warnings of unhealthy air throughout the Los Angeles area. Smoke could be seen billowing around the fabled Hollywood sign.

"It's burning everywhere," U.S. Forest Service spokeswoman Dianne Cahir said. "When it gets into canyons that haven't burned in numerous years, it takes off. If you have any insight into the good Lord upstairs, put in a request."

The exact number of people injured or threatened by the fire was still not clear.

Among those evacuated were Los Angeles Dodgers shortstop Rafael Furcal and his wife from their home in La Canada Flintridge. Furcal was given the day off for Monday's home game against Arizona.

Over the weekend, three people who refused to evacuate were burned when they were overrun by flames, including a couple who had sought refuge in a hot tub, authorities said.

Authorities revised an earlier report that five people were trapped in a canyon near Gold Creek. They later said five men and one woman refused several orders to evacuate the remote ranch.

Firefighters light a backfire as a wildfire approaches homes during the Station Fire in La Canada Flintridge, Calif., Monday, Aug. 31, 2009.

AP

Frantic Ga. 911 caller: 'My whole family is dead!'

BRUNSWICK, Ga. (AP)—Guy Heinze Jr. arrived home from a night out to find a gruesome scene—seven people dead, a cousin with Down syndrome clinging to life and another critically injured.

"My dad's dead, my uncle's dead. There's like six. My whole family's dead!" Heinze said, struggling to describe the scene to a dispatcher after his neighbor called 911 and handed him the phone. "It looks like they've been beaten to death. I don't know what to do, man."

Moments later, the 22-year-old went back inside and discovered his cousin Michael still breathing.

"Michael's alive, tell them to hurry!" Heinze yelled in the background as a maintenance man at the mobile home park stayed on the phone with the dispatcher. "He's beat up! His face is smashed in!"

A 12-minute 911 call released Monday provided some of the only details about a crime—which the county police chief calls the worst murder case in his 25 years on the job—that has this coastal Georgia community on edge.

Heinze's cousin, whom police identified as 19-year-old Michael Toler, died later at a hospital, bringing the total slain to eight. A ninth person remained in critical condition Monday. Police have not named any of the other victims and said they have no suspects.

They have released little information about the case because they do not want to jeopardize the investigation, frustrating residents who want to know if they should be concerned about their safety.

The Georgia Bureau of Investigation was conducting autopsies, but Glynn County police, who would release results, declined to do so. The FBI is also investigating but referred calls to county officials.

Heinze's neighbor, Margaret Orlinski, told a dispatcher she was half-dressed Saturday morning when Heinze ran to her door at New Hope Plantation, a mobile home park on the grounds of a historic plantation a few miles north of Brunswick, a city of about 16,000 between Savannah and Jacksonville, Fla.

"He sounds hysterical. I can't understand him," Orlinski said on the call. "He's freaking out."

Study: Cities slash services in economic downturn

NEW YORK (AP)—The economic downturn has taken a toll on U.S. cities, forcing them to slash jobs, raise taxes and fees and limit hours of operation at libraries, zoos, parks and other popular facilities, according to a survey.

The National League of Cities' 2009 report on city fiscal conditions released Tuesday had some good news for city residents: About half of all cities maintained or even increased spending on public safety.

But NCL research director Christopher Hoene warned that cities including Los Angeles, Dallas and Chicago have explored cuts to public safety as a way to cope with future budget shortfalls.

"The worst of the recession's impact for cities still isn't here yet. We'll be feeling it in 2010 and 2011," Hoene said. "That means service cuts and quality-of-life changes that define who you are as a city."

Because of how cities raise and collect their revenues, the report found they will be weathering the effects of the downturn long after a national economic recovery is under way. Persistent state budget shortfalls will also contribute to cities' fiscal woes, as states continue to slash aid to local governments.

The NCL report was based on data collected from fiscal officers in 380 cities across the country. Nearly all of those surveyed have populations of 50,000 or more.

A steep drop in property tax revenues has had a major impact on cities, about 95 percent of which collect and rely on property tax revenue to fund services. About half have a local sales tax and 10 percent have a local income tax.

Hoene said cities that suffered the worst of the housing and foreclosure crisis like Phoenix and Las Vegas were the first to feel the effects of the downturn. The next wave were cities that rely most heavily on sales and property tax, including San Diego, Dallas, Miami, Chicago and other, smaller cities in the Midwest.

ACROSS THE NATION

Police find bone fragment near CA suspect's home

ANTIOCH, Calif. (AP)—Police said Monday they found one small bone fragment on the property next door to the home of a Northern California man charged with kidnapping a little girl and hiding her in his backyard for 18 years. Authorities revealed the discovery after FBI and local law enforcement agencies in the San Francisco Bay area finished combing Phillip Garrido's property in Antioch and the one next door for possible links to unsolved crimes in the area. Garrido, 58, and his wife, Nancy, 54, were arrested last week and charged with 29 counts connected to the kidnapping, rape and imprisonment of Jaycee Lee Dugard, who was snatched outside her home in South Lake Tahoe in 1991. They have pleaded not guilty.

Gay partnership referendum makes ballot

OLYMPIA, Wash. (AP)—A referendum on an expansion of Washington's domestic partnership law for gay couples has qualified for the November ballot, election officials said Monday. The "everything but marriage" measure broadens recognition of domestic partnerships by granting gay and lesbian couples all the remaining state-provided benefits presently extended only to married heterosexual couples. After a month of counting petition signatures, the secretary of state's office said that Referendum 71 had 121,486 valid signatures—nearly a thousand more than needed to advance to the general election.

Huge chest of drawers hoisted aboard space station

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—The astronauts aboard the linked shuttle and station moved a giant chest of drawers from one spacecraft to the other Monday, and hitched it to the orbiting outpost. The Italian-built chest—nicknamed Leonardo, as in Leonardo da Vinci—is filled with nearly 8 tons of equipment and science experiments for the space station and its six residents, including a treadmill named after Comedy Central's Stephen Colbert. Much of the gear is stored in portable racks. Leonardo, which was hoisted on the end of a hefty robot arm, will remain secured to the space station for the next week.

Mailman charged after thousands of pieces found

DETROIT (AP)—Federal agents say they've recovered more than 20,000 pieces of mail from a suburban Detroit postal carrier who stored them in his car, kitchen and garage instead of delivering them. Thirty-seven-year-old James Stempnik Jr. of Clinton Township was charged Monday with delaying and stealing mail. Postal agents said they found government checks, utility bills and court documents, some a year old. A motive is not known. A Postal Service spokeswoman says none of the mail was opened and all pieces should be delivered by the end of the week.

Ohio teen convert's attorney claims safety at risk

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—An attorney for a teenager who says she ran away from home because she feared for her safety after she converted to Christianity from Islam claimed in court documents Monday that her family's mosque in Ohio has terrorist ties—a charge disputed by the Islamic center's leader. Rifqa Bary, 17, said in a sworn statement her family regularly attended gatherings at the Noor Islamic Cultural Center in suburban Columbus, Ohio, and her attorney said in a memo the mosque hosted extremist speakers and supported a scholar with ties to the militant group Hamas.

Trial starts for Ill. man accused of killing 7

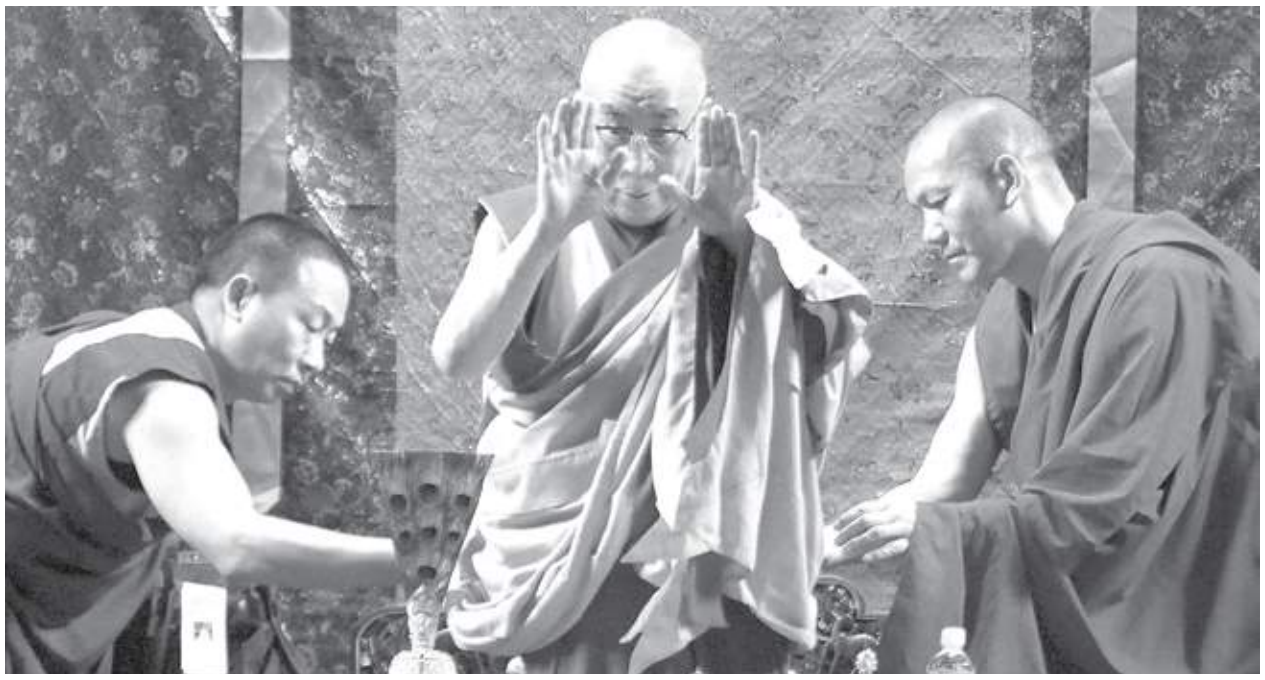
CHICAGO (AP)—A man charged with killing seven people during a robbery at a suburban Chicago fast food restaurant 16 years ago did it because he "wanted to do something big," not because he needed the money, a prosecutor told jurors Monday. James Degorski wanted to make "a big splash in the blood of seven innocent victims" when he and high school friend Juan Luna robbed the Brown's Chicken and Pasta restaurant in Palatine in January 1993 and killed its two owners and five employees, Assistant State's Attorney Louis Longhitano said during his opening statements at Degorski's trial.

Warrant seeks arrest of Hartford, Conn., mayor

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—The mayor of Hartford, Conn., says a judge has signed a warrant for his arrest in connection with corruption charges surrounding a key supporter. Neither Democratic Mayor Eddie Perez nor his attorney has detailed the charges, which are expected to involve a no-bid contract to former Democratic state Rep. Abraham Giles. State investigators have been looking into a parking lot deal between the city and Giles since 2007. The deal included a $100,000 lease termination fee for Giles to vacate a city lot. Perez proclaimed his innocence at a news conference Monday.

Asia

Indonesian police: Terrorist infiltrated airline



'SAFEGUARD DEMOCRACY' AP

Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama gesticulates as he asks his followers to sit down during a Buddhist ceremony for the survivors and victims of last month's massive mudslides triggered by Typhoon Morakot, Tuesday, Sept. 1, 2009, in Kaohsiung, southern Taiwan. The Dalai Lama exhorted Taiwan on Monday to safeguard its democracy, interspersing prayers for the victims of Typhoon Morakot with a challenge to Communist China. Kneeling on the ground to pray for the hundreds killed in this remote mountain village when torrential rains triggered two catastrophic mudslides earlier this month, the Dalai Lama acknowledged that Taiwan and China should maintain "their very close and unique links." However, he said, Taiwan should never lose sight of the importance of its democratic political system, which stands in marked contrast to China's one-party dictatorship.

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A suspect wanted in connection with hotel suicide bombings in the Indonesian capital infiltrated the national airline in a plot to carry out a "bigger attack," the police chief said Monday.

The suspect, identified only as Syahrir, was recruited by a militant network and had been working as a technician with the airline, Garuda Indonesia, said National Police Chief Gen. Bambang Hendarso Danuri.

Documents seized by police uncovered the plot to strike Indonesia's airline sector, he said, without providing details about when or how the attack was supposed to have taken place.

Syahrir resigned from the airline and remains at large, Danuri said.

The blasts at the J.W. Marriott and Ritz-Carlton hotels on July 17 killed seven people and wounded more than 50 others, ending a four-year pause in terror attacks in the world's most populous Muslim-majority nation.

Syahrir is the brother-in-law of a militant suspect shot dead by police earlier this month in an hours-long standoff in Central Java province, Danuri said.

The dead suspect, Ibrohim, had been working as a florist at the two hotels for years before smuggling in explosives and the bombers for the July attacks, police say.

Danuri declined to provide further information to reporters after making his comments to parliament's foreign affairs and security committee, but the details appear to support theories by terrorism experts that militants infiltrated potential targets years in advance.

Additional evidence was also found about a plot to assassinate President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono in retaliation for the execution of three convicted Bali bombers in 2008. Danuri provided no further details.

Police were still searching for several suspects in the recent hotel bombings, including the alleged mastermind, Noordin Muhammad Top, said to head a breakaway faction of the regional terrorist network Jemaah Islamiyah.

Indonesia suffered bombings between 2002 and 2005 that together killed more than 240 people, most of them foreign tourists on the resort island of Bali.

Danuri said 455 suspected militants have been detained in Indonesia since 2002, and 347 received prison sentences ranging from a few months to the death penalty. Some 192 have served prison terms and been released.

One of the four fugitives in the Jakarta hotel bombings was a convicted bomb-maker named Urwah who was sentenced to seven years but released and "returned to his old habitat," Danuri said.

2 American, 2 British troops killed in Afghanistan

KABUL (AP)—Bombs killed four NATO troops Monday—two Americans and two Britons—ending the deadliest month of the war for U.S. forces as the top NATO commander called for a new strategy to confront the Taliban.

The U.S. military said the two Americans were killed in separate explosions in southern Afghanistan but gave no further details. Their deaths brought to 47 the number of U.S. troops who have died in the Afghan war in August—three more than in July which had been the deadliest month.

In London, the British Ministry of Defense said the two British soldiers were killed by a bomb on a foot patrol north of Lashkar Gah, a southern Afghan city where Prime Minister Gordon Brown paid a surprise visit last weekend and promised help for his embattled force.

U.S. casualties have been mounting since President Barack Obama ordered 21,000 more American troops to Afghanistan, shifting the focus of the war on Islamic extremism from Iraq to this country where the global conflict began nearly eight years ago.

Since the reinforcements began arriving last spring, American deaths have climbed from six in April to 12 in May, 24 in June to more than 40 for the next two months as U.S. troops push into areas of the country long under Taliban rule.

The latest casualties occurred as the top U.S. and NATO commander Gen. Stanley McChrystal sent his much-anticipated strategic review of the Afghan war to the Pentagon and NATO headquarters.

Japanese voters empowered by historic election

TOKYO (AP)—Shopkeeper Yoshio Matsumura has always supported the opposition, even when it seemed like a lost cause.

On Sunday, however, Japanese voters joined him in droves, leading an election revolt that ousted the country's conservatives after more than a half century of rule and put the untested Democratic Party of Japan firmly in control.

"People had been fed up for a long time," said Matsumura, who lives in Saitama prefecture, which is next to Tokyo. "Their frustration reached a boiling point, and they finally rose up."

Official results were still being counted Monday, but reports in all major media said the Democrats had won more than 300 of the 480 seats in the powerful lower house of parliament. That is more than enough for the party to choose the next prime minister and control the national agenda.

At least partially fueling the win was a record turnout—up about 2 percentage points from the last lower house election to more than 69 percent, according to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications.

Keiko Nishibori, 74, said lines at her local polling station were the longest she had ever seen.

"I think people realized this time how powerful their one vote could be and that collectively, those votes could lead to something much bigger," said Nishibori, who is originally from Japan's northern island of Hokkaido and has no firm party identity. "Sunday gave us confidence that we, indeed, have a voice."

The Democrats rode a wave of discontent that made the choice of new leaders attractive to many voters, but now the party must deliver fresh solutions to a slew of entrenched problems.

China faces 3rd case of kids' mass lead poisoning

BEIJING (AP)—Two hundred children are suffering from lead poisoning in southwest China, the country's third such case of mass sickening in the past month, an official newspaper said Monday.

Parents in Tongdu, a township in Yunnan province's capital of Kunming, blamed the poisoning on a nearby industrial park, the China Daily reported.

Earlier this month, more than 1,300 children in central Hunan province and at least 615 children in northern Shaanxi province tested positive for lead poisoning, which can damage the nervous and reproductive systems and cause high blood pressure and memory loss.

Those cases have been linked to metal processing plants near their homes and schools. Both plants have been shut down.

Anger is growing in China over public safety scandals in which children have been the main victims. The ruling Communist party is worried that mass protests will threaten the country's social stability and challenge its grip on power.

In the latest lead poisoning case, environmental officials in Tongdu said it was not linked to industrial pollution but to vehicle exhaust, the China Daily said. But the newspaper quoted parents as saying only children living near the industrial park were sickened.

An official with the Yunnan provincial environmental agency told The Associated Press he was unclear of the situation, while calls to the Kunming environmental bureau Monday rang unanswered.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Philippine police arrest suspected Muslim militant

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Police have captured a suspected al-Qaida-linked militant accused of high-profile kidnappings of at least four Americans and dozens of Filipinos in the southern Philippines, officials said Tuesday. Hajer Sailani, an alleged member of the Abu Sayyaf, was arrested in a shopping mall in southern Cotabato city last week. Sailani has been linked to the 2000 kidnapping of American Jeffrey Schilling, a Muslim convert who traveled to an Abu Sayyaf jungle stronghold on southern Jolo Island but was held by the militants on suspicion that he was working for the CIA. Schilling escaped eight months later.

Myanmar's Suu Kyi to boost security at her house

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—Detained opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi plans to repair her dilapidated two-story home to improve security, after an American's high-profile intrusion led to her house arrest being extended, lawyers said Tuesday. Suu Kyi wants to reinforce two balconies on the upper floor, which have only glass doors, and meet with an architect to discuss other renovations, said lawyer Nyan Win. The 64-year-old Nobel Peace Prize laureate is "very keen to have her house repaired, mainly for security reasons," Nyan Win said.

Koreas restore regular cross-border traffic

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North and South Korea restored regular traffic across their heavily fortified border for their jointly run industrial park Tuesday in the latest sign of improved relations between the two, officials in Seoul said. The North's state radio station, meanwhile, quoted leader Kim Jong Il as saying that the U.S. should abandon its "hostile policy" toward the North and sign a peace treaty with the communist nation to reduce tension on the peninsula. His comments echoed statements he has made in the past. Pyongyang Radio didn't say when Kim made the remarks.

Myanmar refugees begin to return home from China

NANSAN, China (AP)—Myanmar refugees were heading home from China on Monday following the end of fighting between government troops and an ethnic militia, but some experts said the unrest could affect Beijing's relations with Myanmar. The initial flight across the border showed how Myanmar's junta can sow instability that spills into China, prompting a rare request from Beijing at the end of last week that the generals stabilize the situation and protect the interests of Chinese nationals inside the country.

Sri Lankan journalist given 20 years in prison

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—A Sri Lankan reporter singled out by President Barack Obama as an example of persecuted journalists around the globe was sentenced Monday to 20 years in prison on charges of violating the country's strict anti-terror law. J.S. Tissainayagam's articles in the now-defunct Northeastern Monthly magazine in 2006 and 2007 criticized the conduct of the war against the Tamil Tiger rebels and accused authorities of withholding food and other essential items from Tamil-majority areas as a tool of war.

World

Libya says Lockerbie bomber in hospital

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—A Libyan official said the man convicted of the Lockerbie bombing has been hospitalized and television footage showed him breathing through an oxygen mask, signs his illness from cancer may be worsening shortly after his early prison release sparked international outrage.

The Libyan Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, Mohammed Siala, said Monday that Abdel Baset al-Megrahi was in the hospital and described him as a "dying man."

"He is in the hospital, he is a dying man, it is normal than he came to spend his last few days in Libya," Siala told The Associated Press.

His comments came after Britain's Channel 4 television Sunday night showed footage of the 57-year-old al-Megrahi in a Tripoli hospital bed propped up by pillows and wearing an oxygen mask while some members of his family stood nearby. A reporter can be heard asking al-Megrahi a question about his case but al-Megrahi appears too weak to answer.

Al-Megrahi was convicted of bombing Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, in 1988, killing 259 people on the plane and 11 on the ground. Scotland released him Aug. 20 on compassionate grounds because doctors said he was dying of prostate cancer.

His release and return to Libya where he was greeted warmly at the airport by hundreds of cheering supporters has led to outrage from many of the Lockerbie victims and questions about whether his release was secured in order to facilitate lucrative oil trade with Libya.

Both Britain and Scotland have denied that business had anything to do with allowing al-Megrahi to leave prison after completing only eight years of his life sentence.

There was no way to independently verify al-Megrahi's condition, and the Libyan official offered no further details. Al-Megrahi underwent extensive medical testing before Scottish officials confirmed his cancer diagnosis, but questions have been raised about the seriousness of his condition.

AP

Released Lockerbie bomber Abdel Baset al-Megrahi, is seen in a hospital bed in Tripoli Sunday Aug. 30, 2009 in this image taken from TV from footage by Britain's Channel 4 News.

Hurricane stronger, heads for Mexico's Los Cabos

LOS CABOS, Mexico (AP)—Extremely dangerous and strengthening Hurricane Jimena roared toward Mexico's resort-studded Baja California Peninsula on Monday, prompting emergency workers to set up makeshift shelters and chasing away an international finance conference.

Jimena, just short of Category 5 status—the top danger rating for a hurricane—could rake the harsh desert region fringed with picturesque beaches and fishing villages as a major storm by Tuesday evening, forecasters said.

On Monday afternoon, workers at the Cabo San Lucas marina nailed sheets of plywood on storefront windows while fishermen secured their boats. Hotels and restaurants gathered up umbrellas, tables, chairs, and anything else that might be blown away.

At least 10,000 families will be evacuated from potential flood zones, said local Civil Protection Director Francisco Cota. He said 60 shelters would be set up. After official hurricane warnings were broadcast, organizers of an international financial meeting scheduled for Cabo San Lucas this week decided to move their conference—including more than 170 representatives from 54 countries—to Mexico City.

"The meeting has been planned for two months and the meteorological conditions, by their very nature, are unpredictable," said Anthony Gooch, spokesman for the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information, sponsored by the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development.

Los Cabos Mayor Oscar Nunez said people in poorly constructed homes face "a huge potential risk" right now and may be forced to evacuate.

Brenda Munoz, who lost her home to a 2001 hurricane, was taking no chances.

"I remember when Hurricane Juliette hit with a lot of intensity. It flattened our home," Munoz said in the vacation town of Cabo San Lucas. This time, she said, "We're already prepared with food and everything so it won't catch us off guard."

As rain started falling Monday morning, Mitch Williams of Orange County, California, waited at the airport to fly home from his vacation.

"The hurricane can do a lot of damage if it hits at that strength," he said.

Williams said poorer residents who live in shacks are not well prepared. "It will wipe them out," he said. His advice for tourists was simple: "Get out."

Poland marks anniversary of WWII beginning

GDANSK, Poland (AP)—Polish leaders marked the 70th anniversary of World War II in a somber ceremony at dawn Tuesday on the Baltic peninsula where the conflict began, hailing those who gave their lives to defeat Nazi Germany.

Later in the day, European and American officials—former friends and foes from the war—were to meet in Gdansk for other ceremonies to pay tribute to the tens of millions who lost their lives in the conflict.

At the Westerplatte peninsula—the site of Nazi Germany's opening assault on Poland—Polish political and religious leaders recalled the sacrifices their countrymen made in the struggle against the overwhelming forces of Hitler's Germany.

"Westerplatte is a symbol, a symbol of the heroic fight of the weaker against the stronger," President Lech Kaczynski said. "It is proof of patriotism and an unbreakable spirit. Glory to the heroes of those days, glory to the heroes of Westerplatte, glory to all of the soldiers who fought in World War II against German Nazism, and against Bolshevik totalitarianism."

Prime Minister Donald Tusk echoed that praise, but also warned of the dangers of forgetting the war's lessons.

"We meet here to remember who started the war, who was the culprit was, who the executioner in the war was, and who was the victim of this aggression," Tusk said.

"We meet here to remember this, because we Poles know that without this memory, honest memory about the truth, about the sources of World War II, Poland, Europe and the world will not be safe.

AP

In this Aug. 26, 2009 photo, a man observes the Monument to the Warsaw Uprising in Warsaw, Poland.

Lessons from Mexico for next wave of swine flu

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico is preparing for a second wave of swine flu, looking at what worked and what didn't last spring when it banned everything from dining out to attending school in an effort to control the virus.

As the Northern Hemisphere flu season begins, the rest of the world is also studying Mexico's experience, looking for measures to replicate and costly mistakes to avoid.

So what worked? Public awareness; rapid diagnosis, treatment and quarantine; and a near-compulsive outbreak of hand-washing.

What didn't? Travel bans, school closures, overuse of antibiotics and those flimsy paper face masks that tangled hair, slid down necks and hid the beautiful smiles of this gargantuan city.

When swine flu first flared up in Mexico in April, the government erred on the side of caution, closing schools and museums, banning public gatherings, playing soccer games to empty stadiums and telling people not to shake hands or kiss one another on the cheek. This bustling city of 18 million became eerily hollow.

Mexican health officials say they made the right call.

"Since we were the first country affected by the flu, we didn't know the possible magnitude and severity, so we took measures that we now know can be (focused)," said Dr. Pablo Kuri, the health secretary's special influenza adviser.

In hindsight, Mexico's most effective action—one now emulated around the world—was immediately telling its own citizens when the new virus was detected.

Not every country has been so candid when facing an epidemic: China was heavily criticized for its slow response to SARS in 2003, while Argentina refused to declare a national public health emergency when swine flu flared there in July.

But Mexico's openness didn't come cheap: Economists say the outbreak cost the country billions of dollars, mostly in losses from tourism.

WORLD BRIEFS

Hamas leader denies Nazi genocide of Jews

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—A Hamas spiritual leader on Monday called teaching Palestinian children about the Nazi murder of 6 million Jews a "war crime," rejecting a suggestion that the U.N. might include the Holocaust in Gaza's school curriculum. Israeli officials called the comments as "obscene" and said they place Hamas in a pariah club of Holocaust deniers that includes Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad. Hamas spiritual leader Younis al-Astal lashed out after hearing that the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, the main U.N. body aiding Palestinian refugees, planned to introduce lessons about the Holocaust to Gaza students.

Report: Doctor confirms Iran prisoner abuse death

CAIRO (AP)—An Iranian medical examiner found that the son of a prominent conservative politician's adviser died from beatings and poor prison conditions, a semiofficial news agency reported Monday, in what would be the first official confirmation of a prisoner abuse death during Iran's post-election turmoil. The report could be a sign that conservatives will seek to prosecute those responsible for prisoner abuse in an attempt to defuse anger over allegations that many opposition supporters detained after the disputed presidential election were tortured.

Son of late Iraqi Shiite leader takes over party

BAGHDAD (AP)—The son of the late leader of Iraq's largest Shiite political party on Monday took the reins of the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council, a party official said. The choice of Ammar al-Hakim to succeed his father, Abdul-Aziz al-Hakim, was widely expected. But there have been questions whether the relatively inexperienced son can hold the organization together during a politically sensitive time in Iraq. The late al-Hakim was a symbol to the Shiite political majority of the victory over Saddam Hussein's Sunni-led regime, but the party did poorly in many parts of the south in local elections earlier this year.

Turkey, Armenia to launch talks on diplomatic ties

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP)—Armenia and Turkey, bitter foes for a century, took a step toward reconciliation Monday by announcing they would launch final talks aimed at establishing diplomatic ties. But they won't discuss the deepest source of their enmity: the World War I-era massacres of Armenians under Ottoman rule. Both sides said in a joint statement they expected the talks to take six weeks and to end with an agreement setting up and developing ties. The two countries, whose shared border is closed, are U.S. allies and came under American and European pressure to move toward peace.

Campus Life

5 easy ways to improve your spelling

AP

Kavya Shivashankar, 13, receives the trophy from Richard Boehne, president and CEO of The E.W. Scripps Company after winning the 2009 Scripps National Spelling Bee competition in May this year. Her winning word was "laodicean."

By ANGELA MAMARIL
CONTRIBUTING WRITER

Editor's Note: The author was the state champion in the 2008 Scripps Regional Spelling Bee. She represented the Marianas region (both the CNMI and Guam) in the national competition.

Have you ever watched those Scripps National Spelling Bee competitions that they air on ESPN every year and thought, "Wow, those kids are geniuses"? The truth is that those kids are pretty normal, like you. They do the same things you do, play the same sports you play, and even watch the same TV shows you watch. The only difference between those kids and you is that they take the time to practice their spelling.

Joining spelling bees are really worth the practice. Not only do you gain knowledge and recognition, the cash prizes can range from $100 to $3,000.

Now, say you don't have the time to practice your spelling, or you think studying a bunch of words is pretty lame and a waste of time. Here are five simple tips to improve your spelling, without the hassle of sitting in front of a long list of words every day.

1 Read, read, read.

This is the No. 1 advice spelling champions will offer anybody. When you read, your mind tends to absorb every word that your eyes pass through. This gives you the chance to discover new words—without even trying. Reading will also help you get used to seeing so many words at one time. If you're preparing for the spelling bee, your coach will probably give you about a hundred words a day to spell out, which can be very scary. Reading will help you get used to that and make you think that a hundred words seem like a mere 40.

2 Use a new word everyday.

Grab the nearest dictionary and open up any page and point at a random word, or if you come across a new word when reading, quickly write it down somewhere and find the definition. If that word is something you don't use all the time or have never heard of, take the chance and use it today. Use it in one of your casual conversations with a friend (Example: "My teacher was so *austere*; we couldn't talk at all during class."). You're actually memorizing the word, if you haven't realized it, which is basically the same as memorizing the spelling. If you do this everyday, your vocabulary will grow, and so will your spelling abilities. On a side note, it'll make your friends and teachers think you're smarter than you actually are!

3 Understand where words come from.

Have you ever used a big word and thought "Why is it called that?" or "Where did these words come from?" Just like a tree, big words start from the root. Let's use the word *cacophony* as an example. The meaning of cacophony is "a harsh or discordant sound." Cacophony is actually two Greek root words joined together: kako- (meaning "bad") and -phonia (meaning voice or sound). Understanding the root words help you build bigger words as you go along. So the next time your teacher asks you to spell a word meaning "bad writing," you'll be sure to know that you'll spell out cacography.

4 Write it out.

Many spellers practice their words by writing it down twice and spelling it. Just like reading, you're allowing your mind to absorb each word. If you've got an upcoming spelling test you'd love to ace, write out the words twice on a piece of paper. As you write them down, the words will stick much easier on your mind than the traditional "say-spell-say." If you have got a journal or extra notebook lying around, pick it up and write a story or write about your day. As I said in tip No. 2, try using new words. Instead of writing, "Our neighbor's house was on fire today," try putting down, "Our neighbor's house was engulfed in flames today." Not only does your vocabulary expand, your writing will sound more interesting too.

5 Play word games.

Most teens don't consider reading fun, and that's fine. You can substitute that (but not entirely) by playing word games. Playing board games like Scrabble, Boggle, and word searches gives you the chance to dig deep in your mind for all sorts of words you never thought you knew.

Keeping these tips in mind, you'll be able to raise the scores on your spelling tests and maybe even spell your way to success.

More Than A Teacher©

By DEAN PAPADOPOULOS
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Although we are not parents,
We become parental with our students
And to perform in the role
Of the objective stranger
Is to be
Less than a teacher.

Although we are not bosses,
We expect work to be done on time
And to insist otherwise
Is to be
Less than a teacher.

Although we are not accountants
We are expected to be accountable
To our students,
To our employers
And to our conscience –
If we are so gifted to have one
That is connected to what we do.
And to be less than accountable
Is to be
Less than a teacher.

Although we are not counselors,
We reach out to students
Who are asking for a trusted opinion
And to not offer assistance when it is asked
Is to be
Less than a teacher.

Although we are not motivational speakers
We must develop the ability
To get what's in us
Outside of us
And to not develop this skill
Is to be
Less than a teacher.

Although we are not researchers
We must seek as much truth
About what we do
In scientifically proven best practices
As much as we extrapolate the wisdom
From our own teaching experiences.
And to not seek greater truths
About teaching
Is to be
Less than a teacher.

Although we are not cultural anthropologists
We must learn the culture of our students
To teach them from what they know first
So that they can learn what they need to know now
And to be indifferent, in denial, resigned or intolerant
Toward the students that make our life meaningful,
If not possible,
Is to be
Less than a teacher.

Teachers...
Great teachers
Are
More Than Teachers.

Editor's Note: Dean Papadopoulos, Ph.D., is an English instructor at the Northern Marianas College.

SAT scores dip for high school class of 2009

By JUSTIN POPE
AP EDUCATION WRITER

Through the early 1990s and early 2000s, average scores on the SAT college entrance exam moved steadily upward. Now, for the last five years, they've been drifting back down.

The reason? Unlike on the multiple-choice sections of the test itself, there's no one right answer. But a big factor is the larger, more diverse group of students taking the tests, combined with a widening scoring gap between the best-performing groups and those whose numbers are growing fastest.

Results released Tuesday show the high school class of 2009 earned a combined score of 1509 on the three sections of the exam, down two points from last year. The average reading and writing scores dropped one point each, while math scores held steady.

Experts caution against reading too much into the national average SAT score, given the test-taking pool changes over time and can vary widely among states. Still, the average score is now down nine points since 2006, when the writing section was first included and the test moved to a combined 2400-point scale.

Math scores are higher over the last decade, but reading scores are four points below their 1999 level.

The College Board, which administers the exam, emphasized the growing diversity of SAT-takers. Minorities made up 40 percent of last year's group, and more than a quarter of the 1.5 million test-takers reported English was not their first language at home.

That's good news in that more students aspire to college, but it also weighs down the overall scores because, on average, students from most minority groups score lower.

The exception is Asian-Americans, whose average combined score surged 13 points to a combined 1623, while scores for whites fell 2 points to 1581. For black students, average scores dropped 4 points to 1276. Average scores for two of the three categories the College Board uses for identifying Hispanics also declined, and overall ranged from 1345 to 1364.

Men also widened their advantage over women by 3 points; men scored 1523 on average compared to 1496 for women. The difference comes mostly from math scores.

Students reporting their families earned over $200,000 scored 1702, up 26 points from a year ago. That group is comparatively small, but the sharp increase could fuel further criticism the exam favors students who can afford expensive test-prep tutoring.

The SAT remains the most common college entrance exam, though the rival ACT has nearly caught up in popularity. Most colleges accept either, and a growing minority no longer requires either one.

Still, fewer than half of high school graduates take the three-hour, 45-minute SAT, and the group is tilted toward higher-achieving, college-bound students.

"I just don't think it's a good gauge of what's going on nationally," said Tom Loveless, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, who said the SAT remains a useful tool, when combined with high school GPA, for evaluating how well individual students are prepared for college.

Experts generally pay closer attention to the National Assessment of Educational Progress, because, unlike college entrance exams, it represents the entire population of students.

On those exams, K-12 black and Hispanic students have made bigger gains than whites since the 1970s.

Life & Style

RATED R WINS BATTLE OF THE BANDS

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

After only two practice sessions before the big night, Rated R brought the house down at the 2009 Summer Jam and Glam with an electrifying cover of the 1984 hit Careless Whisper to win Saturday's battle of the bands at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort and Spa.

The returning amateur rock group topped both first place and the IT&E Texters' Choice award with George Michael's hit single and two original Filipino compositions.

Composed of Ross Cesar on drums, Silverio Artates on guitar and vocals, Mark Bradal on lead guitar and vocals, and Budz Camacho on bass, the group took home the top purse of $200 and various gift items.

Rated R also joined last year's competition but failed to break into the top three rankings. R stands for rejects but the group proved they are a force to reckon with this year after besting five other contenders.

"We're very happy because we didn't expect to win. We thank our supporters and all the other bands for putting up a good show. We will join again next year," said Cesar, who also celebrated his birthday that night.

$5 Haircuts, composed of Peter Sensei Katana, Jake Igitol, Scott Leon Guerrero and Jon Igitol placed second in the band competition. They won $150 and gift items. A group called Vyruz Band, the only group with original compositions, was second in the texter's choice category.

The youthful Scarlett Theory was third both in the band competition and in the texter's choice category. The band, which won $100 and gift items, is composed of Vincent Camacho, Jeric Maglonzo, Mark Gonzales, Patrick Llaban and Jacob Connor.

Members of the Rated R band acknowledge the applause after winning the battle of the bands during the 2009 Summer Jam and Glam at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort and Spa on Saturday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

$5 Haircuts members mug for the crowd after being crowned second placer in the battle of the bands during the 2009 Summer Jam and Glam at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort and Spa on Saturday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The youthful members of the Scarlett Theory receive their prizes after being declared the third place winner in the battle of the bands at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort and Spa on Saturday.

Susan Marchitti, account manager of organizer Beach Road Magazine, thanked all the fans, judges and the staff of Glimpses of Saipan "for bringing together a great show tonight."

She also thanked Digital Motion for its coverage. Digital Motion will be airing the show in its monthly program Hapi Greetings on ABC Channel 7 on Sept. 4 at 7pm.

The competition was punctuated by a mini fashion show that featured the casual, sports wear, and back-to-school wear line at Joeten Department Store and Athlete Foot.

The event was held as part of the celebration of the 60th anniversary of Joeten Enterprises.

PIC Palooza goes retro in fundraising party

NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Partygoers in their colorful costumes and big hair watch the crowd in Saturday night's Palooza at Charley's Bar of the Pacific Islands Club.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

The island's partygoers had the chance to dress up in the colorful and garish styles of the decadent '80s for the second annual Palooza held Saturday at the Charley's Bar of the Pacific Island's Club.

Fans of Madonna, Cindy Lauper, Tina Turner, Prince, and Michael Jackson took over the dance floor for a night of nostalgic revelry that was also intended to raise funds for Beautify CNMI and PAWS.

For most of the partygoers, the '80s was spent in high school, when progressive, hard rock and pop rock acts such as Bruce Springsteen, Bryan Adams, Prince and even Boy George were the big hits.

For Angela Santos, this chapter of her life was when she met her husband. "We were both in high school," said Santos, who is an avid fan of Madonna, Prince, and Michael Jackson.

About three participants came as the famous Tina Turner, with the big hair and long legs.

One of them was Kelly Kutcher, who said she remembers partying with friends in high school.

Madonna lookalike Mara Khorram was also in high school, "a time of big hair, bangles, colorful leggings and all that stuff out there."

Her husband, Dr. David Khorram of the Marianas Eye Institute, came as Prince.

Like most of Madonna and Cindy Lauper fans, Angie Mister wore a faded jacket and black leggings and big hair. Her husband, Tyce Mister, was one of three in Ghostbuster costumes.

Heather Kennedy described her attire as "Madonna-ish" with big earrings. She was also present in last year's inaugural event, which had a '70s theme.

Organizer Angelo Villagomez said tickets were sold out this year.

"It was a great event and we hope to continue this net year. We thank the community for supporting our project," Villagomez said.

Paul Dujua of PIC's food and beverage administration said this year was a bigger success compared to last year's.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Models show off back-to-school wear during the fashion show held as part of the 2009 Summer Jam and Glam at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort and Spa on Saturday.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Two models show off a casual ensemble that's also perfect for the back-to-school season.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

The *Beach Road Magazine*-organized Summer Jam and Glam at the Hibiscus Hall of Fiesta Resort and Spa on Saturday featured casual, sports, and back-to-school wear available at Joeten Department Store and Athlete Foot.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Male models walk down the runway to showcase casual wear available at Joeten Department Store and Athlete Foot.

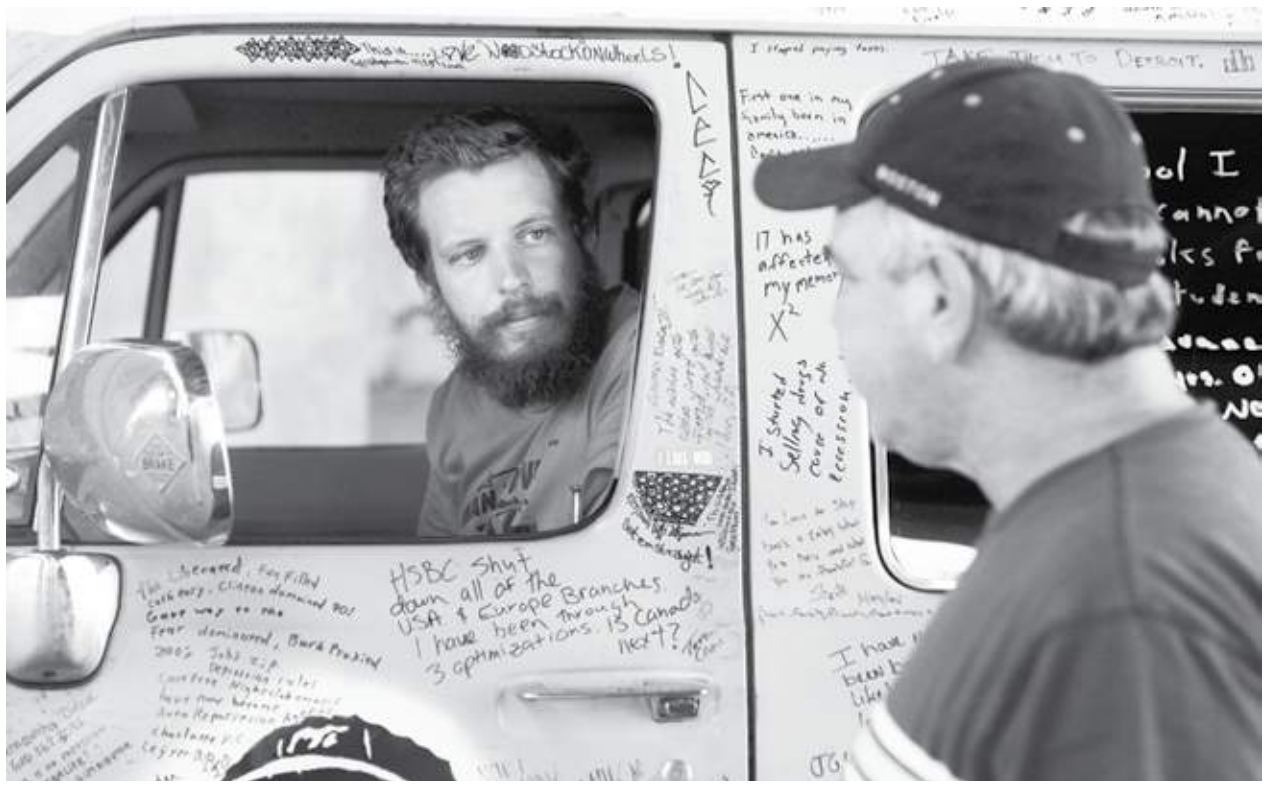
'Man in a van' collecting stories of recession

PROVIDENCE, R.I. (AP)—The beat-up 1989 Dodge van carries a sign with a question: "How has the recession affected you?" Along the side, a request: "Tell me your story."

Scrawled in marker across the orange paint are hard-luck tales: "My grandma lost her house and my dad is working less hours," signed Peoria, AZ. "I lost my job, my home, my car & was homeless for 6 months. This was the first time in 27 yrs I was out of work," signed Sue W.

The man behind the wheel is Aaron Heideman, 29, an artist from Grants Pass, Ore., who in the past year lost his job at a paint store and began sleeping in the van. He hit the road July 1 with what he calls "The Man in a Van Project," angling for a $250,000 prize at an art fair.

"I just want to give people a voice," he said during a stop in Rhode Island, the 20th state he stopped in during what he calls a nationwide conceptual art piece. His media, as he describes it: a 50-yard roll of Tyvek, a Dodge van, and a homeless man (himself). His final destination is Grand Rapids, Mich., home of ArtPrize, where he plans to display his project in September and October.



AP

Aaron Heideman, from Grants Pass, Ore, left, listens to how the recession has affected Ed Therrien, right, homeless for three years and living in a tent city underneath the Washington Bridge in East Providence, R.I., Friday, Aug. 28, 2009.

During Heideman's stops, he unscrolls several feet of the roll, lays it in front of the van with a couple of Sharpie markers, and encourages passers-by to pause for a minute and add their thoughts.

"I lost my job 10 month ago, and I'm still unemployed. I don't have family here and I need help," signed Denis Chavez.

"My parents are always fighting about money," wrote Melissa Curry, 17, of Johnston, R.I.

Heideman estimates that thousands of people have written messages on the banner and van.

"I like the fact that this is a way for regular folks to tell a story," said Aaron Phaneuf, 32, of Newport, R.I., a fundraiser at Brown University, after he wrote a note about the difficulties he's had raising money these days.

Roger D'Ambra, 25, lost his job at a grocery store 5 1/2 months ago and has a 4-year-old daughter to support.

"I know 1,000 people out there hurting," he said after writing a message. "Maybe this will actually help."

Some messages are hopeful.

"All my college savings were in the stock market. But I'm not giving up. I've cut back on a lot of things I thought I could never live without and I'm a better person for it. DON'T GIVE UP AMERICA!" signed Melissa Charette, a student at Johnson and Wales University in Providence.

"Started my own business," reads another.

"I am a professional musician. People need and want my music more than ever," signed Michelangelo Carruba.

Heideman said one of the things that's struck him the most is the positive outcomes people get from their new circumstances.

"A lot of people are getting closer to their families, and they value community more than ever," he said. "People are learning what they need to do to turn their situation around. It seems that people are focusing less on money now."

Heideman tried to stop longer in states hit hardest by the recession: Rhode Island has the country's second-highest unemployment rate, at 12.7 percent, for example. But he says he found hard-luck stories even in states like Maryland and New Jersey that he had planned to skip.

Along the way, a belt on the van gave out, and a water pump. He's run out of gas on occasion. He's also run out of food, and money, and had to turn to donations from strangers to get by. He's been lucky enough to find people who have fixed his van for little or no money.

Heideman sleeps on a mattress he bought for a six-pack of beer. To save cash, he eats a lot of refried beans, cold and straight from the can. He buys them with jalapenos because the beans taste hot that way.

Now, his alternator is on its last legs. But he's got about $500 in donations, made through his Web site, and thinks that should be enough to get him to Pittsburgh, where he plans to be on Monday and Tuesday, Indiana, Chicago and Michigan, where he plans to make several stops before ending in Grand Rapids by Sept. 15.

There, he plans to wrap his Tyvek banner around the Grand Rapids Community Foundation building and ask people to lay flowers next to it as a "memorial to the recession."

ArtPrize will be decided by voters who attend the event, which runs Sept. 23 through Oct. 10. Prizes range from $7,000 up to $250,000. More than 1,000 artists have entered, and Heideman knows his chances are slim.

If he does win, he plans to share his prize with some of the people who helped him along the way. In particular, he wants to help the Victory Assembly of God food bank in Brunswick, Ga., which supplied him with food and gas when he ran out of money after he had to stop at a hospital because of a severe sunburn.

If he doesn't win, that's OK too.

"It makes for an excellent resume," he said. "It makes for an interesting story."

World's oldest dog dies in NY at 21—or 147

NEW YORK (AP)—A wire-haired dachshund that held the record as the world's oldest dog and celebrated its last birthday with a party at a dog hotel and spa has died at age 21—or 147 in dog years.

The dog, named Chanel, died Friday of natural causes at her owners' home in suburban Port Jefferson Station, on Long Island.

Chanel, as stylish as her legendary namesake, wore tinted goggles for her cataracts in her later years and favored sweaters because she was sensitive to the cold, owners Denice and Karl Shaughnessy said Monday.

The playful dachshund was only 6 weeks old when Denice Shaughnessy, then serving with the U.S. Army, adopted her from a shelter in Newport News, Va.

AP

This picture provided by owners Karl and Denise Shaughnessy shows their wire-haired dachshund Chanel in Port Jefferson Station, N.Y. on Long Island. Chanel, who was recognized as the world's oldest dog, died on Friday, Aug. 28, 2009. She was 147 years old in dog years.

Along with her owner, Chanel spent nine years on assignment in Germany, where she became adept at stealing sticks of butter from kitchen countertops and hiding them in sofa cushions in the living room, Shaughnessy said. She also liked chocolate, usually considered toxic to dogs, Shaughnessy said.

"She once ate an entire bag of Reese's peanut butter cups, and, you see, she lived to be 21, so go figure," Shaughnessy added.

Karl Shaughnessy nominated Chanel for the title of world's oldest dog after noticing the Guinness World Records book had no record.

Guinness World Records officials presented Chanel with a certificate as the world's oldest dog at a Manhattan birthday bash hosted by a private pet food company in May.

Chanel loved the party, especially the cake, which had a peanut butter flavor and had been made for dogs, Denice Shaughnessy said.

Chanel exercised daily and ate home-cooked chicken with her dog food, but good care wasn't entirely responsible for her long life, said her owners, who attributed God.

"Dogs are God's angels sent here to look out for us," Denice Shaughnessy said.

A dog from New Iberia, La., named Max, is vying for the record of world's oldest dog. Owner Janelle Derouen said Max marked his 26th birthday on Aug. 9. She said Guinness World Records officials were reviewing documents to authenticate his age; a Guinness World Records official in London didn't immediately answer an e-mail from The Associated Press requesting confirmation of that.

When asked the secret to her dog's long life, Derouen said she was shocked he's still with her.

"I have five kids, and all my kids are grown and gone," she said. "Now my grandkids are playing with this dog."

Shania Twain slowly stepping back into spotlight

WASHINGTON (AP)—Country music singer Shania Twain is slowly stepping back into the spotlight after the break up of her marriage to Robert "Mutt" Lange in May 2008.

Twain has been keeping a low profile, aside from a brief appearance at the Country Music Association awards last November. But this week she will be a guest judge on "American Idol" during the Chicago auditions, and she has reached out to fans by posting a personal letter and video travelogue on her Web site.

Twain

Reba McEntire hopes this will mark Twain's re-emergence onto the scene.

"The country music industry is ready for Shania Twain to come back, definitely," said McEntire. "You could see that at the CMA Awards. They gave her a standing ovation when she walked out on stage."

Taylor Swift recently gave credit to Twain "for always making theatrical videos," during an acceptance speech at the Country Music Television awards. Swift said, "I take my cues from you."

Twain posted the letter and video on her Web site Friday, her 44th birthday, to show what she and her son have been up to in the past year.

"I hit a very big bump in the road," she wrote. "But Eja and I are doing well and with all the concern you, my fans, have shown over this difficult period, I want you to see for yourself that we are doing fine, by sharing these personal images with you."

Twain's marriage to Lange fell apart last May following his alleged affair with Marie-Anne Thiebaud, a longtime secretary and manager of the couple's chateau in Switzerland. Since then, Twain has relied on Thiebaud's ex-husband, Frederic Thiebaud to heal.

"A dear friend and true gentleman by the name of Fred, has been the most constant companion of support for both Eja and me," Twain wrote. "And having gone through the suffering of his family splitting apart at the same time under the same extreme circumstances, he understood me better than anyone."

Twain said she has made a point of surrounding herself with "loved ones I can trust."

"When I reflect on it all," Twain said. "It's clear how remarkably active my life has been since last December—a time in the life of someone working hard to "move on" and succeeding."

There's no word on when she might come out with new music. But she said her experiences are helping her find inspiration through seeing new and fascinating things. And she's putting that inspiration in to writing.

Chris Brown says he still loves Rihanna

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Chris Brown says he remembers beating Rihanna and that a brief interview clip making the rounds online Monday in which he said he didn't recall the incident "is not representative of what I said."

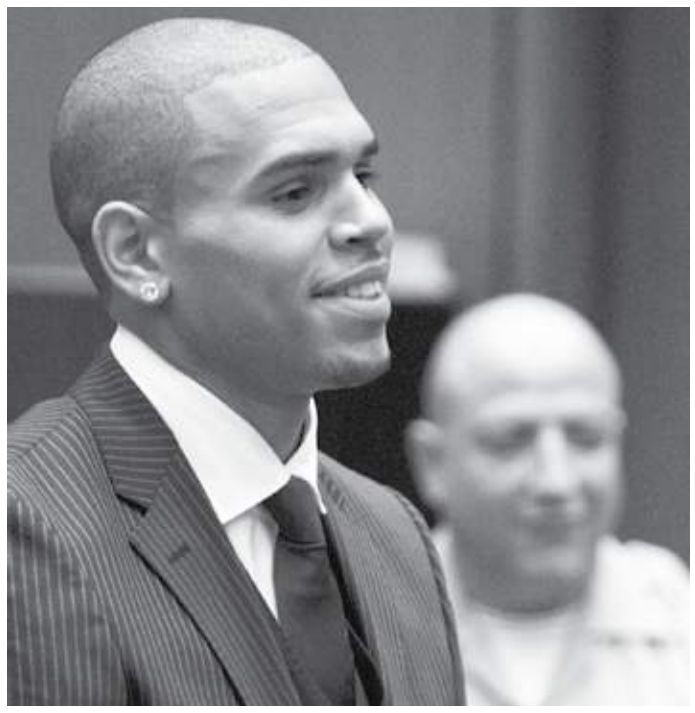
The R&B singer tells People magazine in a lengthy statement that he "misspoke" during the 30-second clip and that he was asked "something like 4 or 5 times" about the altercation with Rihanna during an hour-long interview.

"Of course I remember what happened," Brown said in a statement late Monday. "Several times during the interview, my mother said that I came to her right afterwards and told her everything. But it was and still is a blur."

In his first public interviews on the subject, the Brown told People magazine and CNN's Larry King that his feelings haven't changed for Rihanna since the February beating that left her bloody and bruised.

"I never fell out of love with her," Brown told People. "That just wouldn't go away."

Brown told King in an interview scheduled to air on Wednesday night that he is still in shock about his actions. Brown's mother, Joyce Hawkins, accompanied her son during both interviews.



AP

Chris Brown smiles during his sentencing for assaulting his girlfriend Rihanna, at Los Angeles County Superior Court in Los Angeles, Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2009.

"When I look at it now, it's just like, wow, like, I can't believe that that actually happened," Brown told King.

Brown pleaded guilty to felony assault in June and last week was sentenced to five years of probation, a year of domestic violence counseling and six months of community labor. He will serve his sentence in his home state of Virginia.

A judge also ordered Brown, 20, and Rihanna, 21, to stay away from each other.

A police affidavit and probation report detail the beating, which included Brown hitting, biting and choking Rihanna, whose real name is Robyn Rihanna Fenty. The attack occurred in a car after the couple attended a pre-Grammy Awards party.

Brown's interview with People will be published in an issue released on Friday. He told the magazine he called his mother, who was a domestic violence victim, the night of the attack.

"I was distraught. I went to my mom on the same night and told (her) what happened and broke down."

Brown released a video statement last month in which he apologized to fans and said he had repeatedly apologized to Rihanna for the attack.

Pat Robertson, 79, on mend after heart surgery

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—Christian broadcaster Pat Robertson underwent 10 hours of surgery to repair an irregular heartbeat that put the 79-year-old at higher risk of a deadly stroke or heart attack, his lead surgeon said Monday.

Robertson was back at home in Virginia Beach after his release on Thursday from a hospital in North Carolina. He ultimately will be fitted with a heart monitor, Dr. Andy C. Kiser said.

"Full recovery, that's what I would expect," the cardiothoracic surgeon said in an interview from FirstHealth Moore Regional Hospital in Pinehurst, N.C., where the surgery was conducted Aug. 19.

Robertson, founder of the Christian Broadcasting Network, underwent what Kiser said was a new approach to dealing with atrial fibrillation, called convergence procedure. It involves cauterizing the continually beating heart muscle with heat generated by a radio frequency. It rewires a portion of the heart, in a sense, to correct the irregular beat.

Kiser said the technique is less invasive than traditional surgery and more effective long-term than drugs and their many side effects.

In a separate but related procedure, doctors also removed an abnormally enlarged left appendage on Robertson's heart. They believe the growth contributed to Robertson's atrial fibrillation.

The appendage was 6 centimeters long, or slightly longer than adult pinkie finger.

"Only the prayers of thousands of believing people kept me on this earth," Robertson said in a statement.

In recent years, Robertson has been successfully treated for prostate cancer, has had partial knee replacement and two previous heart procedures.

Gordon Robertson, who was named CEO of CBN this year and is filling in for his father on the "700 Club," said the elder Robertson is "up and around and doing well."

"I think for the first time in my life I've found him taking seriously the doctor's advice to rest," Robertson said.

The surgery should markedly improve Pat Robertson's quality of life, Kiser said. Patients with atrial fibrillation are two to seven times more likely to have a stroke and are 40 percent more likely to die from it.

Robertson founded the Christian Broadcasting Network, which airs programs in nearly 100 languages in more than 225 countries. Its flagship program, the "700 Club" talk show, reaches 1 million American households daily.

He also founded the Christian Coalition, an influential conservative advocacy group, and angered opponents with controversial statements about current events.

The elder Robertson announced plans to retire next summer as president of Regent University, the private Christian college he founded in 1978. He will continue to serve as chancellor and on the board of trustees at the Virginia Beach school known for its evangelical Christian perspective.

"He's been trying to delegate more and more," Robertson said of his father.

Ballas hopes for 'Dancing' repeat win with Hart

WESTPORT, Conn. (AP)—When he was younger, "Dancing with the Stars" pro Mark Ballas says it was a nightly ritual to watch Melissa Joan Hart in the popular 1990s show "Clarissa Explains it All."

"I would tell my mom not to talk to me when it was on," Ballas confesses.

Now, Ballas is again giving Hart all his attention by teaching her how to dance.

The pair will compete together on the ninth season of "Dancing with the Stars" premiering at 8 p.m. EDT Sept. 21 on ABC.

They're on their eighth day of rehearsals and Hart, who also starred in the TV series "Sabrina the Teenage Witch," is ready to start doing lifts and stunts.

"She's doing pretty well so far," says Ballas, 23. "She has a tendency to kind of want to do all the hard stuff now. We've got to build up to it. We're only on day eight. We have three more weeks to go."

AP

Melissa Joan Hart, right, and her dance partner Mark Ballas are shown during a rehearsal in Los Angeles, for the upcoming dance competition series, "Dancing With the Stars."

"See, I kind of look at it like, 'We have three more weeks to go!'" admits Hart, 33.

She's got a good teacher. Ballas took his season eight partner, Olympian Shawn Johnson, to first place. He also won the sixth season of the show with partner Kristi Yamaguchi.

But on the upcoming season of "Dancing With the Stars," Ballas won't just dance. He'll sing, too. He and fellow "Dancing" cast member Derek Hough have a band and will perform music on the fifth episode.

At the end of the year, they'll release their second album.

Hart will compete against other celebrities like Donny Osmond, Macy Gray and Kathy Ireland for the coveted disco ball trophy, but Ballas is trying not to speculate on who will be real competition.

"There's always a bit of gossip. There's always 'Oh, I heard this one's good' but you never know until you see them dance," Ballas says.

Former Miss California sues over firing

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Former Miss California USA Carrie Prejean sued pageant officials Monday for libel, slander and religious discrimination, accusing them of telling her to stop mentioning God even before her controversial remarks against gay marriage.

Prejean sued California pageant executive director Keith Lewis and actress and former Miss USA Shanna Moakler, who served as a co-director before resigning in protest of Prejean.

Prejean was fired in June by pageant officials who said she missed several scheduled appearances.

Her attorney, Chuck LiMandri, said that wasn't true, and Prejean was ousted because of controversial remarks in April during the Miss USA pageant that marriage should be between a man and a woman.

She was named first runner-up, and many believe she lost her shot at the Miss USA crown because of her answer.

LiMandri said Prejean filed suit only after he sought detailed information on what events Prejean missed.

"I wanted to give them every opportunity to provide the basis for those claims," LiMandri said.

He said he found no proof that Prejean missed events. "There were no contract violations," he said.

The lawsuit claims Lewis and Moakler both told Prejean not to mention God on her Miss USA application or at public events at least two months before she gave her anti-gay marriage answer.

The suit also claims Moakler and Lewis improperly revealed that Miss California USA had paid for Prejean's breast implants.

Moakler's attorney, Mel Avanzado, said in a statement that Prejean's lawsuit was without merit.

"More importantly, as everyone who watched or read her public statements is well aware, Ms. Prejean's unfortunate and bigoted statements are responsible for any public humiliation or damages to her reputation that she has claimed to have suffered," Avanzado wrote. "Ms. Moakler strenuously denies that she did anything wrong and looks forward to proving that in a court of law."

Prejean is also suing publicist Roger Neal, who handles press for Miss California USA and Lewis.

Neal said he could not immediately comment on the lawsuit.

The lawsuit accuses Lewis, Moakler and Neal of using Internet sites such as Facebook and Twitter to post disparaging remarks about Prejean.

The lawsuit does not name Donald Trump, who owns Miss California USA's parent organization and who in May refused to fire Prejean, a decision he reversed a month later.

The suit states Trump authorized Prejean's appearance on the "Fox and Friends" show in May and a Shape magazine interview, both of which were sighted by Lewis as unauthorized public appearances by the beauty queen.

The complaint does not state a specific dollar figure that Prejean is seeking. It claims she has been subject to public ridicule and humiliation and lost out on modeling work because she lost her crown. She has also suffered anxiety, depression and loss of sleep since her firing, the lawsuit states.

AP

In this April 26, 2009 file photo, Miss California USA Carrie Prejean listens to a question at the Rock Church during services in San Diego.

UK police to review Rolling Stones guitarist death

LONDON (AP)—Forty years after the body of Rolling Stones guitarist Brian Jones was found floating in his swimming pool following a binge of drugs and drinking, police said Monday they are reviewing the case in light of new evidence turned over by a journalist.

Jones' 1969 drowning was ruled an accident, though friends and fans have long insisted the 27-year-old rock star was murdered, and reports have swirled of a deathbed confession by a building contractor.

Sussex police in southeast England said they will examine the new documents and have not yet decided whether to officially reopen the case.

Jones

"It's too early to comment at this time as to what the outcome might be," the Sussex duty inspector said, reading a statement over the telephone.

Police did not give further details or name the journalist. The Mail on Sunday identified him as Scott Jones—a free-lancer who is not related to the musician—and said he had handed over 600 documents to police.

Brian Jones was a founding member of the reportedly Rolling Stones and came up with the band's name, taking it from a song title on a Muddy Waters album cover.

Erin Andrews to Oprah: Nude video was 'nightmare'

CHICAGO (AP)—ESPN sportscaster Erin Andrews said in an interview with Oprah Winfrey that having secretly videotaped nude footage of her distributed on the Internet was a "nightmare."

Winfrey's interview with Andrews will air Friday, Sept. 11, as part of a "Summer Headlines" show that previews the 24th season of "The Oprah Winfrey Show." Andrews also tells Winfrey she "opened up the computer (and) could feel my heart pounding."

Andrews' attorney has said the blurry five-minute video was shot at a hotel without her knowledge and she plans to seek criminal charges and file lawsuits against whoever shot the video and anyone who publishes it.

The reporter also says she's excited to get back to work this fall, adding "it's really going to help me heal my wounds."

Andrews will be working on air Thursday night for the first time since the video became widespread news.

Japanese couple wins World Tango competition

BUENOS AIRES (AP)—A Japanese couple outdanced the Argentines and more to win the traditional salon category at the Tango Dance World Championship.

The competition wrapped up Monday night with the finals of "stage" tango, a less traditional form that combines classic tango moves with elements of ballet and even acrobatics.

Hiroshi Yamao and Kyoko Yamao figured they would simply enjoy themselves in the salon contest, but the married couple swooped away with the trophy in the most traditional of Argentine tangos. The rules dictate, for example, that couple must not separate while the music plays, and must move constantly counterclockwise.

AP
Hiroshi Yamao, right, and Kyoko Yamao, left, dance tango after winning the Salon category of the 7th Tango Dance World Championship in Buenos Aires, Saturday, Aug. 29, 2009.

"We came here to dance and enjoy ourselves, without thinking we would win or achieve anything big," said Hiroshi Yamao, 36, after Saturday night's final, where they earned a 15,000 peso prize (about $3,800). "We would like to express our thanks for the huge support we've received from everyone here."

Paula Abdul plays court judge in 'Drop Dead Diva'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Paula Abdul is back in the judge's seat—but not on the "American Idol" stage.

Abdul cameos in Lifetime's "Drop Dead Diva" as a gavel-banging, glammed-up version of herself in a dream sequence set in a Los Angeles courtroom. In the over-the-top scene, the former "Idol" judge dispenses oh-so-fabulous justice in the form of a vocal and fashion critique to Jane (played by Brooke Elliott), a plus-size lawyer possessed by a skinny model.

"Jane, you bring it with your voice, but you lose it with your choice," Abdul declares.

At one point in her scene from the Sept. 13 episode, "Judge Paula" rises from the bench to reveal her "belted and bedazzled" ensemble—a chunky belt and glittery skirt below a flowing top crafted from a black judge's robe. Abdul appears in Jane's dream to motivate her to continue suing a clothing retailer that only sells small dresses. Abdul's final verdict?

"It's nice being the only judge," she coos.

Abdul will next be seen as the host of the "VH1 Divas" concert, the live Sept. 17 event which will include performances by "American Idol" winners Kelly Clarkson and Jordin Sparks as well as Miley Cyrus and Adele. Abdul has yet to announce a steady job to replace her role on the Fox singing contest, which she left amid contract negotiations in July.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Blink 182 cancels NY show after DJ AM's death

SARATOGA SPRINGS, N.Y. (AP)—Pop-punk band Blink-182 has pulled out of its show in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., saying band members were grieving the death of their friend, celebrity disc jockey Adam "DJ AM" Goldstein. A statement released by the band said Weezer, Taking Back Sunday, Chester French and "some special surprises" would go on as scheduled at the Monday night show. Goldstein was found dead Friday in his New York City apartment. The cause of death has not been released pending the results of toxicology tests. Goldstein and Blink-182 drummer Travis Barker were the sole survivors of a plane crash last year in South Carolina that killed four people. Barker was Goldstein's partner in the duo TRVSDJ-AM.

1940s gospel legend Marie Knight dies in NYC at 84

NEW YORK (AP)—Gospel legend Marie Knight has died in New York City at age 84. She came to prominence while touring with Sister Rosetta Tharpe in the 1940s and singing hits such as "Beams of Heaven." Her manager, Mark Carpentieri, says she died Sunday at a Harlem nursing home of complications from pneumonia. Knight was raised in Newark, N.J. She began touring the national gospel circuit with evangelist Frances Robinson. In 1946, she partnered with Tharpe. The two became the most popular gospel artists of the 1940s with hits including "Didn't it Rain" and "Up Above My Head." They toured throughout the 1950s.

Court sides with Paris Hilton in Hallmark fight

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—An appeals court has ruled that Paris Hilton can continue pursuing a lawsuit against Hallmark Cards Inc. over the use of her picture and catch phrase "That's hot" on a greeting card. Hilton sued the company in 2007 after it began selling without her permission birthday cards of a cartoon of a waitress serving a plate of food to a patron. A photo of Hilton's face was pasted on the cartoon's body. Hilton alleges that the card ripped off her appearance as a waitress in an episode of her reality television show "The Simple Life." Hallmark has defended the card as parody, which is normally protected under fair-use law.

Keith Urban, Vince Gill host all-star concert

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Keith Urban and Vince Gill will co-host an all-star concert to raise money for the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum, with guests including Brad Paisley, Taylor Swift and Faith Hill. Urban and Gill announced the concert Monday. It will be held Oct. 13 at Nashville's Sommet Center. Jason Aldean and Lady Antebellum are also scheduled to perform, with more acts expected to be announced. Tickets are only $25 and go on sale Wednesday. The all-star show is part of the museum's "All for the Hall" fundraising initiative created and led by Gill since 2005. The concert will open with a one-hour set by Urban and his band. Then, Gill will join Urban and an all-star band to bring out special guests.

LA fashion designer gets 59 years to life sentence

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A fashion designer has been sentenced to 59 years to life in prison for sexually assaulting aspiring models he lured to Los Angeles. Superior Court Judge David Wesley on Monday sentenced 35-year-old Anand Jon Alexander, who was convicted in November of 14 counts including forcible rape. He was found not guilty of four felonies, and jurors could not reach a verdict on three counts. His victims, some of whom spoke at the hearing, ranged in age from 14 to 21. Prosecutors said Alexander often found women online, baited them with promises of glamorous photo shoots and other modeling work, only to fondle or rape them at his Beverly Hills apartment. The designer has been featured on the television show "America's Next Top Model."

Wife shies away from man's embrace of nudist's lifestyle

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Adam," and I bought a lovely, secluded home in the country. We have no children, and our nearest neighbor is a half-mile away. Now it seems like my husband plans to spend the rest of his life in the nude. He loves it and often tells me how "relaxing" it feels. I must admit his temperament has improved.

Please don't get me wrong—I'm not a prude. But Adam goes for days on end without wearing a stitch unless we're going out or someone is coming over. He works in the yard, cuts the grass, hikes in our woods naked—and has a head-to-toe golden tan.

I don't mind seeing my husband in the buff. He's clean and well-groomed and nearly as trim as when we first married. (We both are.) My problem is, Adam is constantly after me to join him. I admire his nerve, but just can't bring myself to go outdoors with nothing on, despite the privacy. My biggest hang-up is fear of getting caught.

Last month, Adam was mowing the lawn and didn't hear the UPS truck come down our long driveway. Caught "red-handed," he nonchalantly signed for the package, wished the driver a good day and went back to work. The driver winked and gave me a thumbs-up as he drove away.

Should I give in to Adam's request and give his nude lifestyle a try? I know it would mean a lot to him. I told him I'd follow your advice.

"EVE" IN UPSTATE NEW YORK

DEAR "EVE": I'm not opposed to it. From everything I have read, and from readers' testimonials, the naturalist lifestyle is healthy and upbeat, so give it a try. Just be sure to wear sunscreen.

P.S. By December, your problem should no longer be a problem.

DEAR ABBY: My friend "Opal" worries me. When it comes to dating, she meets most of her men in bars. They're usually a lot younger than she is. Opal is in her late 50s—her "boyfriends" are 40 or younger.

I have no problem with women dating younger men, Abby, but these are guys who have been in jail and who have had drug problems, emotional issues, etc. Because I am Opal's best pal, I am the person whose shoulder she cries on when these relationships don't work out.

I am tired of always hearing the same old sob story. Sometimes I just want to slap some sense into her. What should I do when she calls me upset because she has been dumped again? I've had it, and I don't know what to do.

APPALLED IN CLEVELAND

DEAR APPALLED: Poor Opal appears to be desperate for companionship and incapable of learning from her mistakes. The next time she calls to cry on your shoulder, give her the wake-up call she needs. Explain that if she's trying to hook a mountain trout, she shouldn't be fishing in a herring barrel. If she takes offense, so be it—because she's looking for love in all the wrong places, and it appears your friendship has pretty much run its course.

DEAR ABBY: A single male friend and I have had a running debate about the phrase "I love you, but I am not IN love with you." It came up again with his telling another friend he believes there is a big difference between the two.

I have been married for 20 years, and I told him that all love starts out "in" love and gradually becomes a more meaningful and everlasting love. Can you settle this?

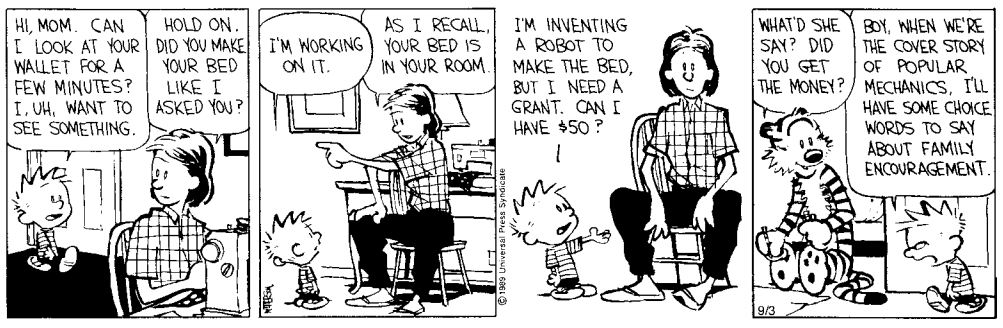
TIRED OF HEARING IT IN TEXAS

DEAR TIRED: You can love more than one person at a time, but to be IN love with someone implies that you are focused only on that person and want the relationship to be exclusive. Although sometimes that feeling passes, other times it deepens into the emotion that you described. In other words, when it comes to love there are no absolutes.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HI, MOM. CAN I LOOK AT YOUR WALLET FOR A FEW MINUTES? I, UH, WANT TO SEE SOMETHING.
HOLD ON. DID YOU MAKE YOUR BED LIKE I ASKED YOU?
I'M WORKING ON IT.
AS I RECALL, YOUR BED IS IN YOUR ROOM.
I'M INVENTING A ROBOT TO MAKE THE BED, BUT I NEED A GRANT. CAN I HAVE $50?
WHAT'D SHE SAY? DID YOU GET THE MONEY?
BOY, WHEN WE'RE THE COVER STORY OF POPULAR MECHANICS, I'LL HAVE SOME CHOICE WORDS TO SAY ABOUT FAMILY ENCOURAGEMENT.
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9/3

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I CUT MY FINGER ON YOUR CAT FOOD CAN TODAY
I HOPE YOU APPRECIATE WHAT I GO THROUGH FOR YOU
I HOPE YOU DIDN'T BLEED ON MY FOOD
RFIELD
www.garfield.com
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JIM DAVIS 9-2

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

WELL, I CAN CALL THE DRYER REPAIRMAN OR I CAN GO ONLINE AND FIX IT MYSELF.
HOW HARD CAN IT BE?
OH NO! ADAM! WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
I'M FIXING THE DRYER. ALL THE INFO I NEEDED WAS ONLINE.
I DON'T LIKE THIS. REMEMBER WHEN YOU INSTALLED THE SHOWERHEAD AT THE WRONG HEIGHT?
WHAT I REMEMBER IS US HAVING THE CLEANEST SHINS IN TOWN.
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www.gocomics.com
9-2

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CHRIS, DO YOU HAVE YOUR REPORT ON WHAT YOU DID OVER YOUR SUMMER BREAK?
DO YOU WORK FOR THE GOVERNMENT?
2009 © Glenn McCoy/Dist. by Universal Press Syndicate
9-2-09

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Letterman's network
4 Stubborn critter
8 Not working
12 Uncooked
13 Holly
14 Perfectly
15 "Born in the —"
16 Track timer
18 Ledger entry
20 Lubricate
21 Support group?
24 Presents
28 Cause clashing
32 Italian farewell
33 Work with
34 Movie cowboy Lash
36 Matterhorn, for one
37 Venetian blind part
39 Li'l Abner's home
41 Serf
43 Slay
44 Scoundrel
46 Youngsters
50 Bigfoot
55 Mined-over matter
56 Quaker's address
57 Womanizer
58 "A Chorus Line" song
59 Harvard's rival
60 Legal wrong
61 Barbie's companion

DOWN
1 Gunk
2 Foundation
3 Q-tip end
4 Strong, cold wind
5 Last (Abbr.)
6 Writer Buscaglia
7 Big fair, for short
8 Slanted type
9 Speck
10 Fond du —, WI
11 Biblical verb ending
17 Peruke
19 "Big Blue" company
22 Slightly
23 Seafood selection
25 Decree
26 Body powder
27 Last year's frosh
28 Dogsled command
29 Capri, e.g.
30 Notary's symbol
31 "Les Miserables" author
35 Disparaging term
38 Rotational force
40 Whatever amount
42 Greek cross
45 Small pie
47 Eccentric
48 Sea eagle
49 Spotted
50 Pigpen
51 "Eureka!"
52 Scale member
53 Additionally
54 Mongrel

Solution time: 21 mins.

D	E	E	R	■	W	A	S	P	■	C	O	P
O	G	L	E	■	I	C	E	R	■	O	B	I
C	O	M	M	I	T	T	E	E	■	M	O	P
■	■	■	A	N	T	S	■	L	A	M	E	S
L	A	C	K	S	■	■	A	I	D	E	■	■
A	L	O	E	■	C	O	M	M	O	N	E	R
I	S	M	■	M	A	N	E	S	■	C	I	A
C	O	M	M	U	T	E	R	■	P	E	R	I
■	■	■	A	P	S	O	■	■	L	A	D	E	N
F	U	N	G	I	■	O	X	E	N	■	■	■
A	N	D	■	C	O	M	M	U	N	I	T	Y
I	D	O	■	A	R	E	A	■	E	R	I	E
L	O	S	■	L	E	N	S	■	D	E	N	S

Yesterday's answer 9-2

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12			■	13				■	14			
15			■	16				17				
18			19		■	■	20			■	■	■
■	■	■	21		22	23	■	24		25	26	27
28	29	30					31	■	32			
33			■	34				35	■	36		
37			38	■	39				40			
41				42	■	43				■	■	■
■	■	■	44		45	■	■	46		47	48	49
50	51	52				53	54		■	55		
56				■	57				■	58		
59				■	60				■	61		

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Erin Hershey, 33; Salma Hayek, 43; Lennox Lewis, 44; Keanu Reeves, 45

Happy Birthday: Don't be surprised by what's going on around you this year, especially if it has to do with work, health or getting along with your peers. Instead, take action. This is not the time to back down or give in. Focus on the present but look to the future. A cool, detached attitude will help you make tough but necessary decisions. Your numbers are 8, 10, 17, 24, 33, 41, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): A personal overhaul that promises to bring you greater self-confidence should be your goal. Efficiency will be the name of the game, so find out all you can that will help you be your best. Love is in the stars. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): There are too many variables to take a risk. You have to weigh the pros and cons before you make your move. Don't believe everything you hear. False information will distract you from what you should be concentrating on. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): If you fall behind with your chores, you will miss out on something you want to do later in the day. Love and romance will motivate you to move a little faster. Reevaluate your current personal situation. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): Keep a lid on your anger and you'll avoid a dispute that you cannot win. You should be intent on picking up knowledge, experience or new skills. A trip or time spent with family will be advantageous. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Don't let a trivial matter escalate into a serious emotional encounter that will be difficult to fix. Try to get along, regardless of what someone else does. Your ability to negotiate is good. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): If you put all your eggs in one basket you are likely to come up short. You have to be diverse if you want to get ahead. Don't expect anything to go according to plan. Be ready to act fast in order to avoid loss. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Pondering over what to do next will not lead to advancement. Make up your mind and move on. You have what it takes to charm and network your way to the top, so put your talent to good use. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Stay focused. Don't give in to bribery or anyone promising you something for nothing. Protect your interests and your lifestyle before it's too late. Unpredictable actions will confuse your rival. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): You may have to be secretive about your current situation. Visit someone or somewhere that will help you sort out a dilemma that could potentially change your personal life. An older individual will have valuable advice. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Do your best to help someone you love see the ins and outs of a financial situation that might also affect you. Your experience will pay off and you will end up being a hero if you negotiate on behalf of others. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Put a lid on any inclination to be overindulgent. Don't let anyone talk you into doing something that might not be to your benefit. You aren't likely to find it easy to say no but, if you don't, you will be put in a compromising position. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): Keep things out in the open or you may be blamed for something that was not innocent to begin with. Secrecy and meddling will both lead to a problem with someone you need on your side. Take an open and honest approach. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are cautious but not afraid to try new things. You are dependable and are always searching for new experiences. You are strong-minded.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	1	6			9	3	5	4
9			3					1
7			5					6
1			8				6	
	5	4					8	
2			1			7		
4			6			9		
6			7		8			
	7	3			1			

Difficulty Level ★★★ 9/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

3	8	1	7	4	9	6	5	2
6	4	2	5	1	3	7	8	9
5	9	7	6	8	2	3	4	1
7	3	4	2	9	6	5	1	8
1	5	9	8	7	4	2	3	6
8	2	6	3	5	1	9	7	4
4	6	8	9	3	5	1	2	7
9	1	3	4	2	7	8	6	5
2	7	5	1	6	8	4	9	3

Difficulty Level ★★ 9/01

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

FILOFAX ORGANIZERS **Solution: 8 letters**

H	S	P	D	A	D	D	R	E	S	S	E	S	L	A
C	C	G	D	E	T	O	N	T	N	F	I	L	E	(S)
L	A	N	N	L	S	B	E	O	L	O	O	S	E	(B)
E	R	T	U	I	O	K	I	Y	K	N	R	N	T	(A)
R	D	C	O	P	R	S	L	R	E	E	Y	E	K	(T)
G	S	A	B	A	A	E	S	F	T	R	E	O	R	E
Y	O	P	M	C	A	P	I	T	E	H	O	W	G	S
R	F	M	C	F	A	N	E	N	S	B	D	A	D	E
A	F	O	O	M	A	L	O	R	K	A	R	A	S	G
T	I	C	L	N	U	I	R	C	T	O	P	S	Y	A
E	C	P	C	D	T	M	E	E	T	I	N	G	S	S
R	E	E	E	A	E	H	S	S	F	N	E	A	T	S
C	S	H	T	N	C	R	S	E	T	I	R	W	E	E
E	C	S	B	U	S	I	N	E	S	S	L	I	M	M
S	E	X	E	D	N	I	R	A	D	N	E	L	A	C

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Addresses, Birthdays, Bound, Business, Calendar, Cards, Checkbook, Clergy, Compact, Dates, Desk, Files, Finances, Flyleaf, Folder, Indexes, Letters, Loose, Maps, Market, Meetings, Messages, Months, Neat, Note, Occasions, Office, Pads, Paper, Pens, Punch, Refill, Rings, Schedule, Secretary, Sheet, Slim, Sold, Stationery, Storage, System, Tabs, Week, Write

Yesterday's Answer: Supplement

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, the book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only, payable to Universal Press Syndicate, includes $3 postage for the first book order, $1 each for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. **Order online at upuzzles.com.**

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WHATZIT Solution: Walk on air

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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

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Debbie Noble Chargualaf
19708 Meadows Circle
Cerritos, CA 90703
Telephone no. (562) 860-1474

Pro Se

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR THE APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIANS FOR: JEREMIAH PETER CHARGUALAF, A minor child, By DANIEL NORMAN CHARGUALAF and DEBBIE NOBLE CHARGUALAF, Petitioners.	FCD-GU-CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0493 **NOTICE OF HEARING**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition for Appointment of Guardians for the above-named minor child, to wit: JEREMIAH PETER CHARGUALAF, by DANIEL NORMAN CHARGUALAF and DEBBIE NOBLE CHARGUALAF, as Petitioners, was filed with the above-entitled court and is open for review at the Office of the Clerk of Court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING on the said Petition or Appointment of Guardians will be held at the above-entitled court at Guma Hustisia Building, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on September 8, 2009 at 9:00 a.m. or as soon as thereafter.

Clerk of Court

/s/ By Deputy Clerk of Court

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CUC emergency extended anew
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ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

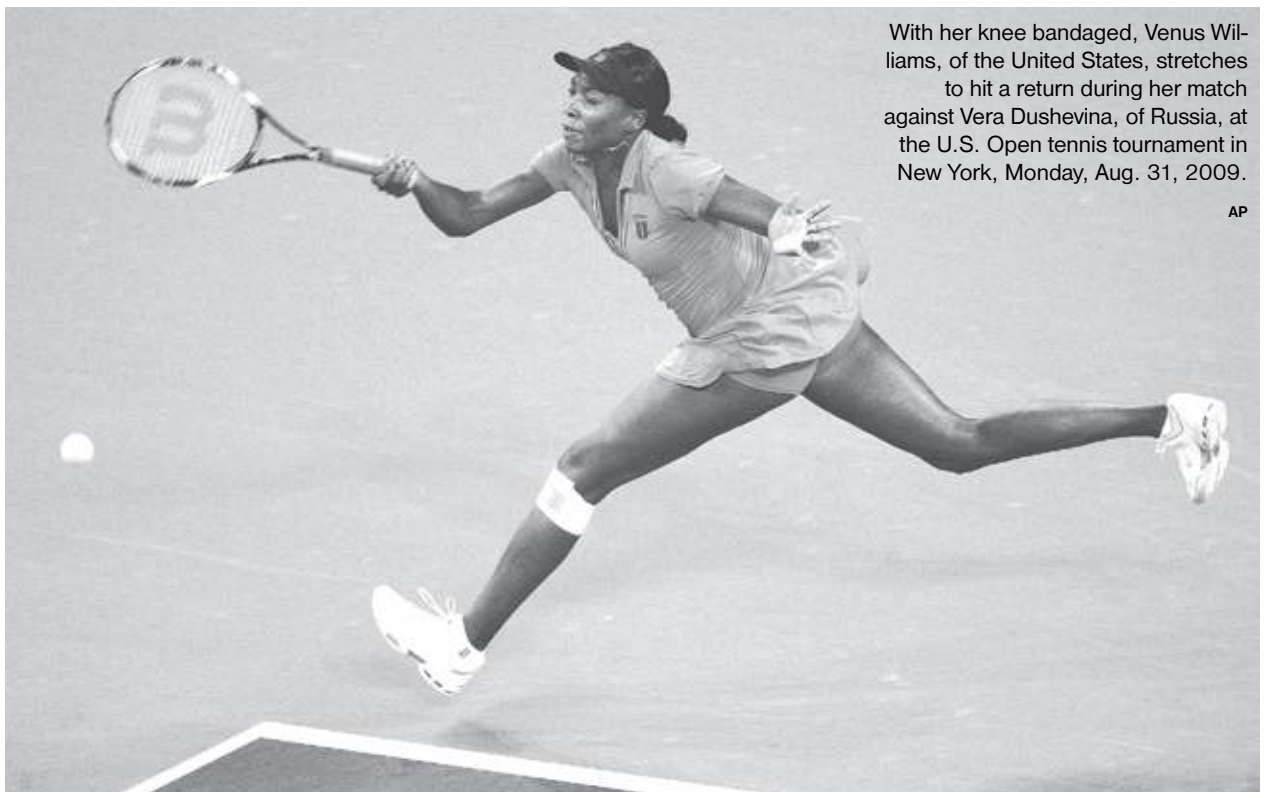
CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Venus survives scare in first round at Open



With her knee bandaged, Venus Williams, of the United States, stretches to hit a return during her match against Vera Dushevina, of Russia, at the U.S. Open tennis tournament in New York, Monday, Aug. 31, 2009.

AP

NEW YORK (AP—Venus Williams was bothered by a bad knee and distracted by more than a half-dozen foot faults. What never fazed her: a big deficit.

Quite close to losing in the U.S. Open's first round for the first time, Williams came all the way back from a set and a break down to beat 47th-ranked Vera Dushevina of Russia 6-7 (5), 7-5, 6-3 Monday night.

"I had a challenge on my hands today. But I wanted to win," said the No. 3-seeded Williams, who made 54 unforced errors. "Each good shot, and each not-so-good shot, I put behind me and looked forward to the next one."

Williams, twice the champion at Flushing Meadows, had her left knee bandaged by a trainer after the third game. The American also had plenty of trouble serving: She piled up 10 double-faults and was called for seven foot-faults.

Afterward, Williams wouldn't discuss her knee problem in any detail.

"You could see I had some issues," she said. "I don't really talk about my injuries, historically, and I'm not going to start now."

Asked what it's going to take for her knee to be better for the second round, Williams said: "A lot of prayer. It's going to be a lot of prayer. Everything I can throw at it. But, you know, I'm tough."

She sure proved that on this night.

Dushevina broke for a 3-1 lead in the second set and was three points from winning at 5-4.

"Next few points," Dushevina said, "she played great."

That is true: Williams, who never has lost in the U.S. Open's first round, won the next seven games.

Still, there was a bit of shakiness left. Up 4-0 in the third set, Williams dropped three games in a row before righting herself once again.

One measure of how big an upset this would have been: Williams owns seven Grand Slam titles; Dushevina only once has been as far as the fourth round at a major tournament. And then there's this: Williams entered Monday 43-3 in first-round matches at tennis' top four tournaments, including 10-0 at the U.S. Open.

Even though Williams improved those marks in the end, the 2-hour, 43-minute match did serve as the most intriguing encounter of a Day 1 that included victories for defending champions Roger Federer and Serena Williams, Venus' younger sister, and for 2003 champion Andy Roddick.

Taking to the court after 11 p.m., because his match followed Williams-Dushevina, Roddick easily advanced with a 6-1, 6-4, 6-2 victory over 84th-ranked Bjorn Phau of Germany. Roddick pounded serves at up to 145 mph, put 81 percent of his first serves in and collected 13 aces in a match that finished at 12:45 a.m. Tuesday.

"The later, the better," Roddick said on court afterward. "These are the hardcore fans."

Much, much earlier, Kim Clijsters, who recently came out of retirement, began Monday's action by winning her first match at the U.S. Open since claiming her lone Grand Slam title in New York in 2005.

Venus Williams won the tournament in 2000 and 2001, and while she hasn't been back to the final since losing to her sister in 2002, her earliest departure from New York came in the fourth round in 2004.

She looked headed for the exit at several moments Monday, particularly after Dushevina took the last four points of the first set after trailing 5-3 in the tiebreaker. Williams led by that score when she pounded an apparent service winner, one that would have given her a 6-3 lead and three set points.

But a line judge called Williams for a foot fault, her fourth. She seemed to lose her focus, turning to the official to ask, "Which foot?" When Williams went back to the baseline for the second serve, she netted it for a double-fault.

"It threw me off," Williams said. "After that, I just got a little tentative."

In the second set, Williams fell behind 3-1, then trailed 5-4. But she broke Dushevina there with a backhand winner, and began to hit her spots more.

Williams played most of her matches en route to the final at Wimbledon this year with a bulky tape job on her left knee. But she began Monday's match without any such help. Three games in, she called for the trainer.

"I had some issues, and I needed some support," she said, earning a roar from the fans. "I'm not one to complain. Everyone has injuries they're dealing with. I did my best tonight, despite everything I was going through."

About 12 hours earlier, in that same Arthur Ashe Stadium, spectators dotting the mostly empty stands called out to Clijsters as she stepped on the court that means so much to her.

"Come on, Kim!" yelled one fan. And then another. And yet another. "Hey, Kim!" someone else shouted.

Monday morning's setting was a familiar one for Clijsters, whose lone Grand Slam championship came at Flushing Meadows on Sept. 10, 2005. That was the last time she played at the U.S. Open, and while the site was the same, the circumstances and the stakes were oh-so-different.

Clijsters' 6-1, 6-1 victory over 79th-ranked Viktoriya Kutuzova of Ukraine came in the first round, the 26-year-old Belgian's first Grand Slam match since January 2007. In the intervening two-plus years, Clijsters retired, got married and, in May 2008, gave birth to a daughter. Once No. 1, she came to the U.S. Open unranked and needed a wild-card invitation from the U.S. Tennis Association.

"Little more nervous than usual. It's a very special court to me, but I really enjoyed it," Clijsters said. "I felt really good out there."

Two-time major champion Amelie Mauresmo won easily, as did No. 7 Vera Zvonareva, No. 8 Victoria Azarenka, No. 10 Flavia Pennetta, No. 12 Agnieszka Radwanska and No. 14 Marion Bartoli, whose next opponent is Clijsters.

Federer ousts NCAA champ to keep streak

NEW YORK (AP)—So you're ranked 1,370th—tied for 1,370th, actually—and you're 18 years old, and you're making your Grand Slam debut at the U.S. Open against Roger Federer.

Yes, that Roger Federer, the guy ranked No. 1, owner of a record 15 major titles and considered by many the greatest player in tennis history.

You want to acquit yourself well, certainly, even if you recognize that Federer's 35th consecutive victory at Flushing Meadows is going to come at your expense. And here are among the thoughts entering your mind: When are you going to get another chance like this? When are you next going to be sharing Arthur Ashe Stadium with Roger Federer?

If you're Devin Britton of Jackson, Miss., the youngest NCAA singles champion ever, you treat the whole thing as if you're stepping into a real-life version of a video game and decide to check out what this Federer guy can do.

"His forehand is just crazy. I tried to keep (the ball) away," the American said with a mischievous smile, "but sometimes I just hit it there just to see it."

Britton enjoyed the view, if not the final result. The kid even got to relish a few fleeting moments when he was up a service break in each of the last two sets. Predictably, Federer gathered himself to win 6-1, 6-3, 7-5 on Monday, beginning his bid to become the first man since the 1920s to win the American Grand Slam tournament six years in a row.

"I mean, he obviously looks unbelievable on TV, but playing against it was even more tough," Britton said. "It was so scary. I was pretty scared."

A year ago, he was playing in the boys' event at the U.S. Open as a junior, reaching the final. A little more than a month ago, he was playing in the boys' event at Wimbledon, reaching the semifinals and deciding to leave school at Ole Miss and turn pro.

The U.S. Tennis Association gave Britton a wild-card invitation for the Open, and last week, his agent called with the news that his first-round foe would be Federer.

"I didn't really believe it at first. Thought it was just a bad joke. Then I started getting texts on my phone, and I realized it's true," Britton said. "I was excited. I mean, I was excited at first, and then a little bit—just a little bummed. It's a tough opponent."

There's an understatement. Federer won the French Open in June to complete a career Grand Slam and tie Pete Sampras' career record for major singles titles, then won Wimbledon in July to break that mark.

Federer is well aware of the intimidation factor he carries on court.

"Young players right now, they'll always be in sort of awe, maybe, of great players," said the 28-year-old Federer, whose victory Monday means he will be the first tennis player to surpass $50 million in career prize money.

"These guys start to be, like, 10 years younger than me and followed my generation. They were 10 years old, and I was, you know, playing maybe my best."

Nerves or not, Britton managed to produce more winners than Federer, 32-31.

"He did play, I think, really well," Federer said. "He had some very good spells, and I had to make sure from my side that I stayed with him."

How's that for a compliment?

Britton managed to take a 3-1 lead in the second set by breaking Federer.

Favre leads Vikings to 17-10 win over Texans

HOUSTON (AP)—Brett Favre's ribs appear to be just fine. He took plenty of hits and even delivered one. Adrian Peterson scored on the game's first play, Favre played three quarters despite saying he might have an injured rib, and the Minnesota Vikings beat the Houston Texans 17-10 in a preseason game Monday night.

In his second game since unretiring less than two weeks ago, Favre was 13 of 18 for 142 yards. He didn't move the offense much following Peterson's touchdown until a 28-yard catch and run by Chester Taylor just before halftime.

Favre told ESPN before the game that he thinks he has a cracked rib, but the 39-year-old didn't look to be in pain while getting sacked twice and taking numerous hits.

He drew a penalty for an illegal crackback block to the knee of Houston's Eugene Wilson when he lined up wide in the wildcat formation in the third quarter. Wilson was injured on the play.

Houston's Matt Schaub also had a tough day. He was called for intentional grounding and threw an interception before spraining his ankle on a touchdown run by Steve Slaton in the second quarter. He returned after the injury, but was limping and was replaced by Dan Orlovsky to start the third quarter.

Schaub was 10 of 14 for 108 yards with one interception.

Peterson scored on a 75-yard run when he sliced through Houston's defense virtually untouched. He finished with 117 yards rushing, the second straight game the Texans have allowed a 100-yard rusher. Mike Bell had 10 carries for 100 yards in a loss to New Orleans.

Minnesota's three drives after Peterson's touchdown ended with punts, one of them coming when Favre was sacked by Mario Williams.

The Vikings got the ball at the Houston 24 early in the second quarter after Schaub's interception, but had to settle for a field goal after Favre's pass was deflected on second down and then fell incomplete on third down.

Favre led a Vikings drive that took seven minutes in the third quarter, but that too ended with a punt after an incomplete pass and a false start penalty.

Houston's first three drives ended with punts before Schaub's interception early in the second quarter.

Orlovsky was intercepted in the third quarter, and finished 7 of 11 for 74 yards.

Tarvaris Jackson started the fourth quarter for Minnesota and Sage Rosenfels ended the game in his return to Houston after an offseason trade. Jackson completed both of his passes for 22 yards and Rosenfels was 2 of 3 for 26 yards.

Houston's Andre Johnson played into the fourth quarter and had three receptions for 61 yards. Minnesota rookie Percy Harvin caught three passes for 31 yards.Texans receiver Kevin Walter injured his right hamstring in the first half and did not return.

Pettitte retires first 20, Yankees top Orioles

BALTIMORE (AP)—Andy Pettitte retired his first 20 batters before a lamentable seventh-inning sequence spoiled both his perfect game and no-hit bid in the New York Yankees' 5-1 win over the Baltimore Orioles in the American League on Monday.

Pettitte (12-6) was poised to finish the seventh inning without allowing a baserunner, but former Oriole Jerry Hairston Jr. allowed a two-out grounder by Adam Jones slip through his legs for an error. Hairston was playing in place of Alex Rodriguez, who was given the night off.

Nick Markakis followed with an opposite-field single inside the third-base line.

After Melvin Mora led off the eighth with a home run, Pettitte completed his masterful effort by getting three straight outs. The 37-year-old lefty moved into sole possession of third place on the Yankees career wins list.

Pettitte allowed one run and two hits, struck out eight and walked none to improve to 4-0 in his last seven starts. He's 26-6 lifetime against the Orioles, including 16-4 in Baltimore.

AP

New York Yankees starter Andy Pettitte throws to a Baltimore Orioles batter during the third inning of a baseball game, Monday, Aug. 31, 2009, in Baltimore.

Rays 11, Tigers 7

At Detroit, Carlos Pena hit his AL-best 38th homer and drove in four runs to help Tampa Bay beat Detroit for a split of their four-game series.

Tampa Bay scored six times in the first inning against the AL Central leaders, capped by Pena's two-run drive. James Shields (9-10) pitched seven innings and Jason Bartlett added a solo homer as the Rays moved within five games of idle Boston in the wild-card race.

Carlos Guillen had four hits for Detroit, including a pair of two-run homers.

Jarrod Washburn (9-8) allowed his first six batters to reach base. The last was Pena, who hit a shot down the right-field line. Pat Burrell had a two-run double earlier in the inning.

Twins 4, White Sox 1

At Minneapolis, home runs by Joe Mauer and Jason Kubel in the third inning lifted Nick Blackburn and Minnesota to yet another home win over collapsing Chicago.

The Twins crept within 3Ω games of first-place Detroit in the AL Central, leaving the White Sox six games back. Minnesota has won 15 of 17 against Chicago in its soon-to-be-vacated domed home.

The White Sox have lost eight of nine overall. They finished August at 11-17.

Athletics 8, Royals 5

At Oakland, California, Ryan Sweeney had a two-run triple and scored the go-ahead run on Adam Kennedy's bases loaded grounder in the sixth inning to help Oakland beat Kansas City.

Rajai Davis added two hits and two RBIs for the A's, who won for only fifth time in their last 13 games.

Jays 18, Rangers 10

At Arlington, Texas, Adam Lind helped power the Toronto Blue Jays to a big early lead with his first career grand slam. He then put the game finally out of reach after Texas cut an 11-run deficit to one.

Lind finished with a career-high eight RBIs after adding a solo homer and three-run double in a seven-run ninth for Toronto in a wild 18-10 over the slipping Rangers on Monday night.

Diamondbacks 5, Dodgers 3

At Los Angeles, Rusty Ryal homered to lead off the 10th inning as the Arizona Diamondbacks beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 5-3 Monday for their fifth consecutive victory in the National League.

The biggest news during the game occurred off the field, with the Dodgers acquiring first baseman Jim Thome from the Chicago White Sox and right-hander Jon Garland from Arizona in separate trades announced late in the game.

Angels 10, Mariners 0

At Seattle, Vladimir Guerrero hit two home runs, one a monster shot into the upper deck, and teammate Juan Rivera added a three-run homer as the Angels completed a runaway victory over Seattle.

Seattle played its first game since May against the division kingpins without All-Star cornerstone Ichiro Suzuki, Gold Glove third baseman Adrian Beltre, active home run leader Ken Griffey Jr. and season home-run leader Russell Branyan.

Braves 5, Marlins 2

At Miami, Omar Infante hit a two-run triple in the seventh inning and Kenshin Kawakami pitched six effective innings to carry Atlanta past Florida in a matchup between NL wild-card contenders.

Marlins ace pitcher Josh Johnson did not allow a hit until the sixth inning when Matt Diaz lined a 2-2 slider to center field with two outs.

David Ross, Adam LaRoche, and Yunel Escobar each drove in a run for the Braves in the opener of a four-game series.

Astros 5, Cubs 3

At Chicago, Carlos Lee hit a two-run home run and drove in four runs to lead Houston to a victory over Chicago.

Lee has hit 20 of his 31 homers against the Cubs at Wrigley Field. He also had a two-run single to give him 85 RBIs against the NL Central division rival.

Roy Oswalt pitched seven strong innings for Houston, who won for just the second time in eight games. Oswalt (8-5) allowed two runs on six hits, striking out three and walking one.

Reds 4, Pirates 3, Game 1
Reds 6, Pirates 3, Game 2

At Cincinnati, Brandon Phillips hit one homer and had another overturned after a review as Cincinnati swept a doubleheader from Pittsburgh in front of the two smallest crowds in Great American Ball Park's history.

Phillips had three hits off left-hander Paul Maholm (7-8), including a solo homer. He had another solo shot overturned in the fifth. Replays showed that his drive down the left-field line had actually veered foul, leading to the first reversal at the ballpark.

In the opener, fewer than 2,000 fans saw Darnell McDonald score on a wild pitch from Jesse Chavez (0-4) in the bottom of the ninth for a 4-3 win.

Padres 3, Nationals 1

At San Diego, Livan Hernandez lost to San Diego for the second time in less than a month—and with his second team—dropping a decision despite throwing a complete game for Washington.

David Eckstein and Kevin Kouzmanoff hit RBI doubles in the first inning, and Chase Headley added a pinch-hit home run in the eighth in a matchup of last-place teams.

Hernandez (7-9) threw the 47th complete game of his career and second this season. He also had a complete game in a 6-1 win for the New York Mets against the Nationals on May 26.

Reports: Timberwolves' Rubio staying in Spain

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Ricky Rubio's Spanish pro team has agreed to trade his rights to Regal FC Barcelona in a deal that will prevent the 18-year-old point guard from joining the Minnesota Timberwolves for two years, according to two internet reports.

Yahoosports.com and ESPN.com cited anonymous sources in reports that said DKV Joventut informed Timberwolves vice president of basketball operations David Kahn on Monday night of the agreement, dashing the team's hopes that Rubio would be in the United States this fall.

The Timberwolves selected Rubio with the fifth pick in the June draft. Kahn was aware that Rubio was under contract with DKV Joventut for the next two years and said he would be fine waiting for a season, or even two, before the prodigy comes to Minnesota.

But Kahn made three trips to Spain in hopes of negotiating down an $8 million buyout that would allow Rubio to join the Timberwolves this season, bringing some excitement and pizzazz to a team, and a ticket box office, that sorely needs both right now.

NBA rules limit the Timberwolves to contributing just $500,000 toward the buyout, meaning Rubio was on the hook for the remaining $7.5 million himself. The steep price tag has been the main reason for his hesitation to leave his homeland and realize his dream of playing in the NBA right away.

Under his agreement with the Regal Barcelona, according to the reports, is a stipulation that would allow him to leave after the 2010-11 European season without having to pay a buyout.

The Associated Press left messages for Kahn, who was in Spain, and Rubio's agent, Dan Fegan, seeking comment.

Kahn has spent the last two months doing a dance with Joventut and Rubio's agents to try and secure his services for the upcoming season, so this news no doubt comes as a disappointment.

But he covered himself nicely in the draft, selecting Syracuse point guard Jonny Flynn right behind Rubio with the No. 6 pick. At the time, the move raised eyebrows.

Two point guards?

Even new coach Kurt Rambis, who was hired earlier in August, wasn't quite sure how the two would fit together in the same backcourt.

Rubio

"It's not going to be easy. Not necessarily from an offensive standpoint, but from a defensive standpoint," Rambis said when he was hired. "But I do want to play them as much as possible, particularly this year so that they develop as quickly as possible."

Now, provided Rubio stays in Spain until the 2011 season, the Timberwolves aren't faced with having to give two young point guards heavy minutes.

They can hand the keys to Flynn, who excelled at the Las Vegas summer league, while Rubio gets two more seasons of development in one of Europe's top professional leagues. Presumably, he will either drive his trade value higher as he matures so the Timberwolves can reap a windfall while staying with Flynn, or Rubio will join the rebuilding team in two years with more talent around him to allow him to flourish.

Since he was hired in May, Kahn has been open in his assessment that the Wolves' rebuilding plan will take at least two years before they are in a position to compete for a playoff spot in the Western Conference. That, he has said, is why the team can afford to wait for a prospect that in June was called one of the most exciting point guards to enter the draft in years.

The Timberwolves hold his rights in the NBA as long as Rubio is playing professionally, so Rubio's decision to stay in Spain rather than pay the buyout money himself doesn't affect Kahn's leverage in trade talks going forward.

Earlier this month Kahn reiterated his stance that he can "think of a lot worse things than we have to wait a year or two."

Staying in Spain might save Rubio money in the short term, but it does have a negative financial impact for the long term. Coming to the United States in 2011 means he will have to wait another two years before he can become an unrestricted free agent and sign the lucrative second contract that players who produce covet.

Coming to the NBA this season, Rubio would sign a four-year deal worth more than $15 million. If he played the way many expect to him to, Rubio would be in position to sign a big-money extension that kicked in at age 23.

Now that deal, like the Timberwolves, will have to wait.

Triathletes need support for Whitmore's return to Saipan

Whitmore

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
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REPORTER

Local triathletes are bent on bringing back Jamie Whitmore for next year's XTERRA Saipan Championships, either as a guest or regular participant.

To realize this goal, organizers of next week's 4th Annual Powerade Banzai Memorial Off-Road Half Marathon and Fun Run will be using all the proceeds of the event to pay for the cost of Whitmore's trip.

Whitmore won the inaugural staging of the XTERRA Saipan, considered as the Crown Jewel of the XTERRA Global Series. However, for the past two years Whitmore failed to return to Saipan because of her long bout with cancer.

She had gone through several surgeries and has shown significant progress towards recovery.

In an entry to her blog—http://www.jamiewhitmore.com—on Aug. 31, Whitmore said she is pregnant with twins.

"You read it correctly, I am pregnant with twins and due sometime in late January or early February. When I first got the news I was pretty shocked. Even more shocked when they told me there were two. Both of them went through the surgery with me so they are already proving to be pretty tough," Whitmore said.

"By the time I am ready to deliver, it will be after two years of undergoing three major surgeries and after I almost died from a kidney infection," she said. "We were so scared that my kidney is being rejected in the new location and that I might need another surgery. Thank goodness that is not the case."

Event organizer, Brad Ruszala of IT&E, talked about how Whitmore helped attract some of the big guns of international triathlon events to come and compete in XTERRA Saipan and Tagaman Triathlon.

Ruszala was the guest speaker of yesterday's meeting of the Rotary Club of Saipan at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Ruszala said they would be raising the entry fee of next weekend's race from $5 to $15 to help bring Whitmore back here.

"I'm expecting about 65 to 100 participants this year. We also need the support of the Rotary and we need volunteers," Ruszala said.

The event will be held Sept. 12 and is supported by Transpacific International, Inc.

MIEKO

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However, in the first part of the race, Carey faced an early challenge.

"The water was 20 degree Celsius and I had to wear full wet suit. All 250 participants started together and you can see people pushing. I had two male swimmers hitting me on the head," Carey said.

Carey started slow, but after the second buoy decided to switch from small to big strokes to catch up.

"When I was going for the second loop, I felt my fingers and toes were getting numbed because of the cold. I prayed to let me finish the swim, quickly. When I did and finished the swim race, I could walked straight to the transition area," the 38-year-old triathlete said.

"Still I kept my focus. I was not sure about my time, but I was relieved when I went to the transition area to see Kylee's bike still sitting there," said Carey, who managed to place fifth overall in the swim leg with her time of 16:50.

Focus on bike race

Next up was the bike race, which favored Carey's Australian foe, as Kylee won three times in MTB races in Land Down Under and also competed in the 100-k race and won first place.

"I was nervous every time I hear someone behind me or I hear sounds from a bike. I thought Kaylee was coming. However, I tried to focus on my own race, focus to take good line, and never think I am leading, so I can push myself harder," Carey said.

"Two years ago, a lot of male riders left me behind, but this year, I finished ahead of most of them," added Carey, who was seventh in the bike leg with a time of 1:48:00.

Shoes are still on

In the run leg, Carey still had her shoes on and with those good pair still intact, she kept her pace.

"I came back with still shoes on this year, but I didn't know how far behind was the second women. I was really nervous because I don't know how close or far my opponent was," said Carey, who lost her shoes in the run leg the last time she joined XTERRA Japan.

The run leg reminded Carey of the Kaike Race last month when she slowed down, then sprinted early only to lose in the end and finished third.

"I just run as fast as I can. Some parts of the run course were very rough. Organizers even put ropes to allow runners to climb up. I had troubles breathing when doing the climb part," said Carey, who completed the run leg in 54 minutes.

Speechless at the finish line

"I heard some people saying I am the first female going to the finish line. I still didn't believe them, as I was worried of the runner next to me. Then in the last 500m, I saw the tape and heard the MC saying 'here comes the first female finisher,'" Carey said.

"Finally, I started to smile and relax. I touched the tape without pain. However, when the MC talked to me I couldn't speak. I was just happy to finish the race and see Kevin waiting for me at the finish line," Carey said.

Kevin, Mieko's husband, also joined the race, but failed to finish when his bike broke.

The Careys thanked their Saipan friends and fellow triathletes for their support and congratulatory messages, which flooded their emails after the news that Mieko won in Japan broke out.

XTERRA Saipan Championships winner Sam Gardner of Great Britain won the men's pro division with a time of 2:12:45. Japan's Takahiro Ogasawara finished second at 2:13:37, followed by Japan's Yu Yumoto (2:18:03), Australia's Matthew Murphy (2:19:31), Japan's Yasuo Takahashi (2:22:26), Seiji Sato (2:38:36), and Nobuaki Ito (3:29:07).

DCCA

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to lift Customs to a come-from-behind win.

Sablan finished with a game-high 26 points, while Jake Sablan chipped in 10.

With JP Sablan leading Customs in the third period, the Firedawns lost the upper hand and fell behind by five, entering the final canto, 46-51.

The lead increased to as much as 16, 66-50, midway in the fourth period and Customs hung on to the double-digit margin to nail its first win in the 12-team league.

Taj Van Buren played his first game for DCCA and Peter Camacho and company gave him a good welcome with the team's 11-point win over PSS.

DCCA handed PSS its third loss in six games and the former also halted the latter's two-game winning run.

Peter Camacho paced DCCA with 35 points, while Ponce Rasa chipped n 15. Van Buren contributed 14 markers in his first game, while Romeo Iginoef added 12.

The DCCA-PSS tiff was a seesaw ballgame with the former leading in the first period, 18-17, and the latter grabbing the driver's seat at halftime, 34-32.

Camacho scored eight of DCCA's first 12 points in the third period and Rasa added six to regain the lead, 55-49, going into the final canto.

Camacho picked up where he left off, adding 11 more points to keep DCCA in the lead en route to their second victory in four outings.

Walter Mendez led PSS' losing cause, nailing 12 points, but he was held to only a field goal in the fourth quarter when DCCA posted a double-digit lead. Peter Mendiola added 11, but was also neutralized in the payoff period, making only two field goals.

First Game

DCCA 82 – P. Camacho 35, Rasa 15, Van Buren 14, Iginoef 12, Rangamar 4, Igitol 2

PSS 71 – Mendez 12, Mendiola 11, Ruluked 10, Itibus 9, Coldeen 9, Manibusan 6, Villacrusis 5, Cruz 4, Aughenbaugh 3, Guerrero 2

Scoring by quarters: 18-17, 32-34, 55-49, 82-71

Second Game

Customs 73 – JP Sablan 26, Jake Sablan 10, Cepeda 9, L.Reyes 8, J. Lizama 5, R.Lizama 4, D.Reyes 4, Jason Sablan 3, B.Sablan 2, Santos 2.

ARFF 60 – Quitugua 15, Je.Reyes 11, Palacios 8, Robert 8, Ju.Reyes 6, Cepeda 6, Sablan 6

Scoring by quarters: 14-20, 29-34, 51-46, 73-60.

SSC

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The Masters classes are for adult fitness and competitive swimming and are held from 12nn to 1pm every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Tuesday and Thursday's classes are from 5pm to 6pm, while Saturday lessons are from 7:30am to 9:30am.

CNMI Hall of Fame Mike Villagomez is SSC's head coach and he has two assistants in former CNMI National Team swimmer Tammy Winkfield and former lifeguard Gary Guzman. Winkfield will be in charge of kids attending the swim lessons, while Guzman will be teaching in the masters classes.

SSC vice president Sam Martinsen said Winkfield is a former Saipan Swim Club star and an award winning swimmer. She is very good with children and is also a role model. Her swimming achievements as a former SSC swimmer are many and coach Mike and SSC are extremely pleased to have Winkfield on board.

For the masters, Martinsen added participants of the program will be able to learn how to improve their strokes and to become better swimmers through Guzman's lessons on proper swimming techniques.

Kids participating in the fall lessons will have a chance to compete in SSC-hosted tournaments this year.

Swimmers and non-swimmers interested to enroll in the program may call Villagomez at 483-2301 or Martinsen at 256-7252 or 483-7252 for more information.

ROLLERS

From Page 28

in as many games, as it managed to keep pace with 670 Rollers only in the first half.

Ezra Caro and Gary Macahito combined for 13 points in the first half, keeping Hi-Five afloat at halftime, as 670 Rollers led by only eight, 27-19.

However, 670 Rollers rolled in the second half with Kroy Ogo anchoring the breakaway, as he scored eight straight points in the opening minutes of that canto.

670 Rollers kept the double-digit lead, as Rainier Deleon Guerrero, Juan Maratita, and Jimmy Brel also began finding their mark in the second half.

Ogo finished with a game-high 14 points. Three other 670 Rollers contributed in double figures in scoring with Maratita and Brel nailing 11 apiece, and Deleon Guerrero adding 10.

Macahito top-scored for Hi-5 with 12 markers.

Four more games are scheduled in Week 2 of the Rotary caging, including last night's tiff between the Sparks and Rollers 3. Today, Rollers 1 will take on the Sonics, while tomorrow, the Runnin' Rebels and Ol'Aces will collide against the Celtics and G-Stars, respectively. On Friday, the Saints will face the Sixers.

The Sixers, Runnin' Rebels, Rollers 1, and G-Stars will be gunning for their second win after prevailing in their debut games in Week 1.

The 12 competing teams will play in a round-robin regular season. Playoff format has yet to be decided.

670 Rollers 79 – Ogo 14, Maratita 12, Brel 11, Deleon Guerrero 10, Danas 8, Kaipat 8, Lisua 8, Palacios 3, Metran 3.

Hi-5 37—G. Macahito 12, Caro 9, Urbano 6, Hemlani 5, Tudela 4, M.Macahito 1

Scoring by quarters: 27-19, 79-37.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	83	48	.634	_
Boston	76	54	.585	6 1/5
Tampa Bay	71	59	.546	11 1/2
Toronto	59	70	.457	23
Baltimore	54	78	.409	29 1/2

Central Division

Detroit	69	61	.531	_
Minnesota	66	65	.504	3 1/2
Chicago	64	68	.485	6
Cleveland	58	72	.446	11
Kansas City	50	81	.382	19 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	78	52	.600	_
Texas	72	58	.554	6
Seattle	68	64	.515	11
Oakland	58	73	.443	20 1/2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	75	53	.586	_
Florida	69	62	.527	7 1/5
Atlanta	68	63	.519	8 1/5
New York	59	72	.450	17 1/2
Washington	46	86	.348	31

Central Division

St. Louis	77	55	.583	_
Chicago	65	64	.504	10 1/5
Milwaukee	64	66	.492	12
Houston	63	68	.473	13 1/2
Pittsburgh	58	73	.434	18 1/2
Cincinnati	53	77	.414	23

West Division

Los Angeles	78	54	.591	_
Colorado	72	59	.550	5 1/2
San Francisco	72	59	.550	5 1/2
Arizona	60	72	.455	18
San Diego	57	76	.429	21 1/2

Yesterday's Games

NY Yankees 5, Baltimore 1
Tampa Bay 11, Detroit 7
Minnesota 4, Chi White Sox 1
LA Angels 10, Seattle 0
Oakland 8, Kansas City 5
Toronto 18, Texas 10,
Arizona 5, LA Dodgers 3
Atlanta 5, Florida 2
Houston 5, Chi Cubs 3
Cincinnati 4, Pittsburgh 3
Cincinnati 6, Pittsburgh 3
San Diego 3, Washington 1

By The Associated Press

LOCAL SCORES

IT IT&E Inter-Gov't/ Biz League Standings

IT&E	4	0
MBI	3	1
CHC	3	1
PSS	3	3
Hyatt	2	0
Docomo	2	1
Tinian	2	1
DCCA	2	2
BOG	2	4
Customs	1	2
CPA	0	4
ARFF	0	5

Rotary Standings

G-Stars	1	0
Sixers	1	0
Sonics	1	0
Rollers 1	1	0
Runnin' Rebels	1	0
Rollers 2	1	1
Sparks	1	0
Celtics	0	1
Saints	0	1
Ol'Aces	0	1
670 Rollers	0	1
Hi-5	0	2

UBA 3-on-3 King of Da Court Basketball Tournament

Photos by ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Three Tall Guys and a Short One's Richard Brostrom, right, attacks the defense of Mixed Five's Junar Guiab during their playoff game in the 21-and-above division of the UBA 3-on-3 King of Da Court Basketball Tournament on Saturday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

From left, Kagman Ayuyus' Savili Talalemotu, Jon Norita, and Frank Mettao show their top cash prize in the 15-and-under division. Joining them for a group photo are UBA president James Lee and tournament supporter Rep. Ed Salas.

Three Tall Guys and a Short One's Jeff Cloud, center, is double teamed by Mixed Five's Kelvin Fitial, left, and Junar Guiab.

Marvelous' Jerome Norita pulls up for a jumper against Count to 10's Bryan Ajoste during their finals game in the 20-and-under division.

Choke Chain's Mel Manibusan works in the paint against Wailer' Chris Paul.

Bumble Bees' Mike Moran, right, dribbles past Kagman Ayuyus' Jon Norita.

Wailers' Bonbon Cadagat pulls up for a baseline jumper against Choke Chain's Mel Manibusan.

Count to 10's Lerio Pagarao, left, drives against an Air Ballers defender during their game in the 20-and-under division.

670 Sexy's Jacob Palacios, left, is chased by Flipps defenders down the baseline.

Members of Marvelous huddle during a break in their game against Count to 10.

Venus survives scare in first round at Open

Venus Williams was bothered by a bad knee and distracted by more than a half-dozen foot faults. What never fazed her: a big deficit. **24**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Pettiette retires first 20, Yankees top Orioles

Andy Pettitte retired his first 20 batters before a lamentable seventh-inning sequence spoiled both his perfect game and no-hit bid. **25**

Mieko tops Aussie pro in XTERRA Japan

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

For a change, Saipan triathlete Mieko Carey crossed the finish line without bruises, broken ribs, and worn out shoes.

Instead, she touched the tape at the 2009 XTERRA Japan with a big smile, as she emerged as the first female pro finisher in the Saturday races held in Marunuma.

Carey, who sustained broken ribs due to a crash in this year's Tagaman Triathlon and had other misfortunes in previous races, completed the 1.2-k swim , 25-km mountain bike race, and 10-k run in three hours, 16 seconds to beat Australian pro Kylee Lock by less than four minutes.

A relieved Carey, in an email to *Saipan Tribune,* shared her challenging journey to the finish line at XTERRA Japan.

Fighting numbness

"My goal was I want to touch the finish tape as the first woman with a big smile and not in pain. I was thinking just to take my time, make sure to focus on the trail in the bike leg, ride fast, but correctly to miss crash," Carey said.

See MIEKO on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mieko Carey is all smiles after touching the tape at the finish line of the 2009 XTERRA Japan on Saturday in Marunuma. Right photo shows Carey still wearing her shoes during the run leg.

670 Rollers clobber Hi-5 in Rotary caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

670 Rollers broke into the win column in the second week of the 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League after pounding Hi-5, 79-37, on Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

An explosive second half allowed 670 Rollers to turn a close game to a one-sided affair in the last 20 minutes of the match and cruise to an easy win.

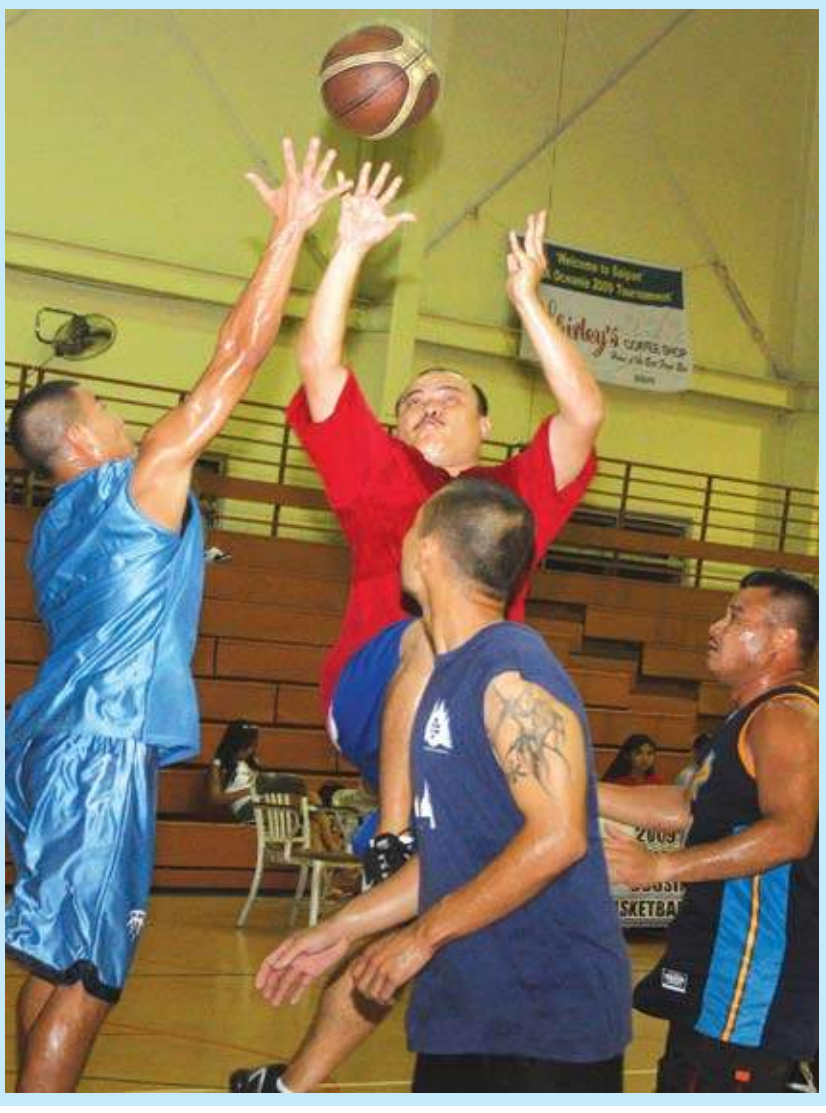
670 Rollers' lopsided win came only a few days after they lost their debut in the 18-and-under caging. The Joe Diaz-coached 670 Rollers played their first game on Friday and bowed to the Kagman Sparks in a close match, 36-38.

When they returned to the Ada gym, the loss was still fresh on 670 Rollers' minds and they vented their ire on the hapless Hi-5

Hi-5 absorbed its second defeat

See ROLLERS on Page 26

DCCA, Customs snap two-game skid



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and Customs ended their skids after downing separate foes in the 2009 IT&E Inter-Government/Business Basketball League on Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

DCCA outclassed Public School System-McGraw Hill in the first game, 82-71, to snap its two-game slide. DCCA debuted with a win over Aircraft Rescue Fire Fighter before dropping its next two matches against Micronesian Brokers, Inc. and Hyatt.

In the second game, Customs finally made it to the win column after two muffed attempts, following its 73-60 triumph over ARFF.

ARFF seemed headed to end its own skid, as it controlled the first half and lead at 34-29 at halftime. However, JP Sablan began hitting from outside in the second half and also escaped with several shots underneath

See DCCA on Page 26

Customs's Jason Palacios pulls up for a jumper against ARFF defenders during their game in the IT&E caging on Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

SSC begins 2009 Fall Season lessons

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club has started its swim lessons and training sessions for the fall season last week.

The lessons and training sessions are divided into five groups, namely the White Team, Blue Team, Juniors, Seniors, and Masters.

Members of the White and Blue teams are training three times a week, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 4pm to 6pm.

The six times a week practice session is implemented for the Juniors and Seniors Teams with members practicing from Monday to Saturday. Monday to Friday sessions are from 4pm to 6pm, while Saturday's lessons are from 7:30am to 9:30am.

See SSC on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Saipan Swim Club's Matthew Klassen competes in a tournament held early this year at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool. After a two month-long break, SSC swimmers resumed their fall training sessions last week.